Leader of Pentagon gang escapes from Crame

STORY ON PAGE A2

1 of 4 Indons gets away

By Julie S. Alipala and Joel B. Escovilla, *PDI Mindanao Bureau*
and Martin Marfil
and Dona Pazzibugan *in Manila*

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Did he escape, or was he abandoned?

One of the four Indonesians abducted by unidentified armed men from a tugboat off Maluso, Basilan, on Monday evening regained his freedom

ABDUCTED/A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

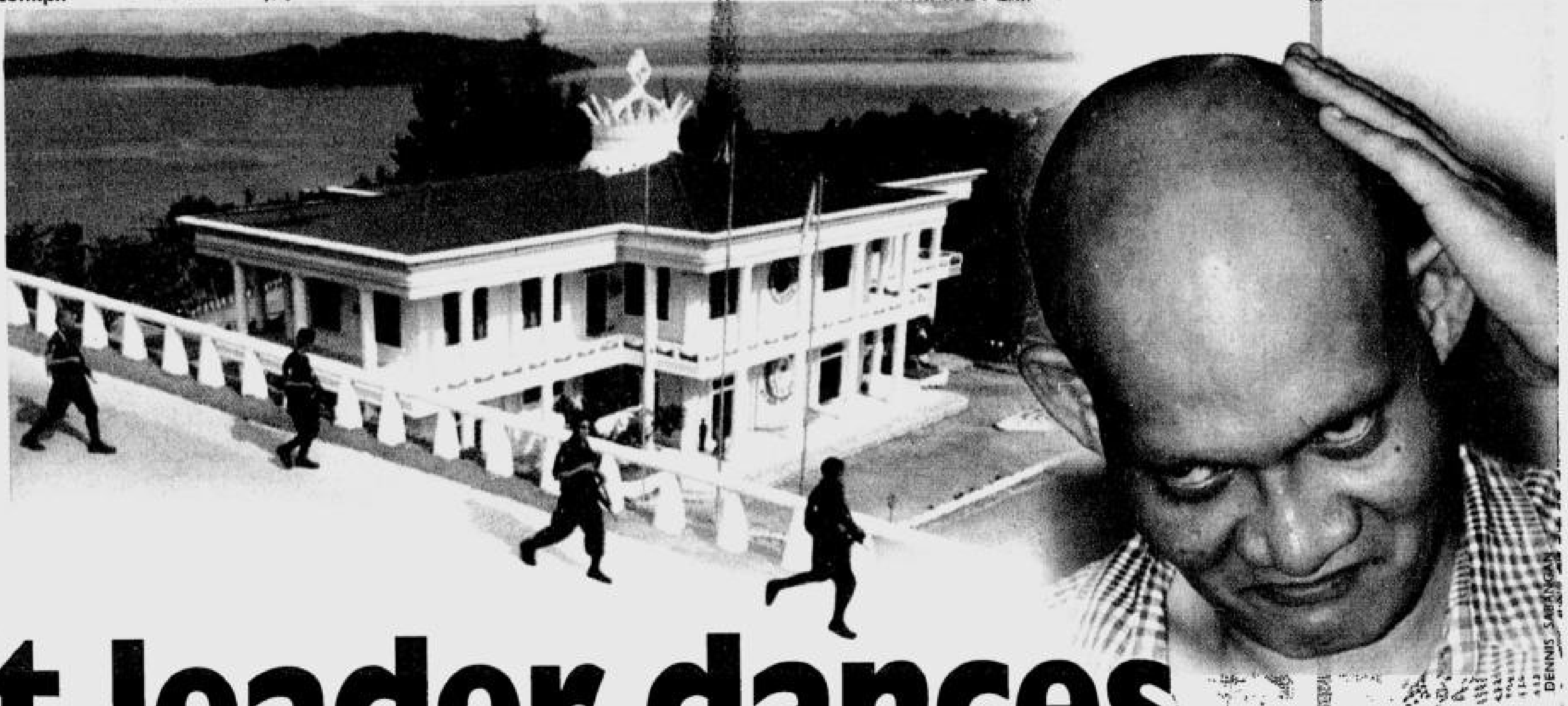
Israel reoccupies Palestinian areas

JERUSALEM—Israel said on Wednesday it would reoccupy Palestinian-ruled areas in the West Bank in response to any new Palestinian attacks, signaling a major policy change after a suicide bombing killed 19 people.

Palestinian officials said the Israeli decision was an open invitation to more violence.

ISRAEL/A4

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Thursday, June 20, 2002 ★★ 56 pages / 6 sections / vol.17 / no. 192 P15
website: www.inq7.net



GOVERNMENT troops take the high road as they move in on the "White House," the Ecleos' mansion in San Jose town on the island of Dinagat where PBMA master Ruben Ecleo Jr. was reported to be hiding. Far right, a not so benevolent look from Ecleo inside the Camp Crame jail in Quezon City.

MA. KRISTINA CASSION/ DENNIS SABANGAN

Cult leader dances as lawmen close in

Ecleo gives up after 19 of his armed followers die

By Ma. Kristina Cassion
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DINAGAT, Surigao del Norte—Cult leader Ruben Ecleo Jr., a suspect in the murder of his wife, taunted policemen sent to this island to arrest him by dancing comically while the first shots were being fired by his followers, authorities said yesterday.

Ecleo, a reincarnation of Jesus Christ to his followers, disappeared as the firefight intensified Tuesday afternoon.

When the dust settled, 19 members of the Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association (PBMA) and a policeman lay dead at the Ecleo mansion in San Jose town.

Ecleo, 47, surrendered yesterday morning 15 hours after PBMA members fired the first shots at the policemen. His mother Rep. Glenda Ecleo arranged the surrender.

Hundreds of heavily armed PBMA members wearing red bandanas scribbled with Latin inscriptions had earlier surrounded the mansion to prevent the police from arresting their "supreme master."

At around 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Chief Supt. Alberto Olario, Caraga police chief, gave Ecleo an ultimatum.

Speaking through a megaphone, Olario urged the fugitive cult leader to peacefully give himself up, but two cult members fired at Olario instead.

CULT/A16

Ecleo: Divine to his followers, criminal to others

By Ma. Kristina E. Cassion
PDI Mindanao Bureau

SURIGAO CITY—To his followers, cult leader Ruben "Bobong" Ecleo Jr. is like Jesus Christ. But to his critics he is a wife killer, womanizer and drug addict.

"Our master 'Bobong' has always been a good and loving person. Like his father, he taught us to be good, and to live by the word of God. He could never have done what they accuse him of, so they have no right to arrest him," said Erlinda Custodio, a mat weaver in San Jose town and a loyal PBMA member.

Many believe that Ecleo Jr. has supernatural powers. He reportedly could foretell events, including yesterday's siege of his mansion.

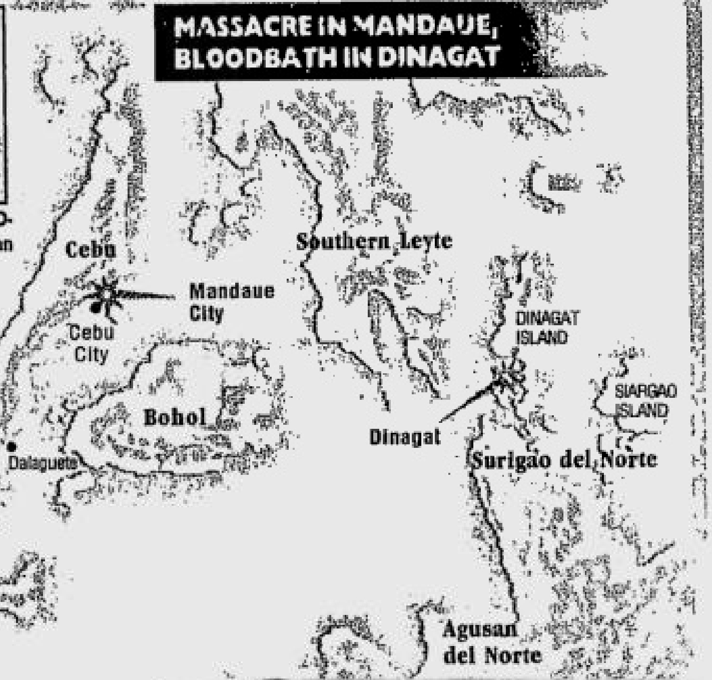
"Master Ruben told us there would

ECLEO/A16

BULLET-RIDDLED bodies of Bacolod family lie sprawled in an alley in front of their home in Mandaue City Tuesday night.

TONEE DESPOJO

ALONA BACOLOD-ECLEO: It all began with her killing.



MASSACRE IN MANDAUE, BLOODBATH IN DINAGAT

CEBU SHOCKER

'They were crawling when suspect finished them off'

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—It was a carnage that Cebuanos thought could only happen in soap operas. Never in real life, not in urban Cebu, anyway.

But on Tuesday night, a lone gunman, armed with an Ingram machine pistol, opened fire at five members of the Bacolod family as they talked about an ongoing police operation on Dinagat Island to arrest their in-law, cult leader Ruben Ecleo Jr.

Killed were Elpidio Bacolod, 65; his wife Rosalia, 58; and eldest son Ben, 36. Their bodies were found sprawled

THEY/A16

END of the road for Ingram-toting Rico Gumulon who was gunned down by pursuing policemen some 500 meters away from the Bacolod family's home.

TONEE DESPOJO

CHRONOLOGY

MURDER IN THE FAMILY

Jan. 6, 2002
The family of Alona Bacolod-Ecleo declares her missing.

Jan. 8
Police discover the decomposing body of Bacolod-Ecleo inside a black plastic bag in Barangay Coro, Dalaguete, in southern Cebu.

Jan. 9
Based on the information given by Bacolod-Ecleo's relatives and family members, police declare her husband Ruben Ecleo Jr. as their primary suspect.

Jan. 10
Rep. Glenda Ecleo, mother of Ruben, says her son is innocent and denies allegations by the Bacolod family that he is hooked on illegal drugs. She also prevents her son from going to Cebu and to cooperate with police investigators.

Jan. 14
Police investigators find bloodstains inside the bedroom of the couple's house in Forest Hills, Cebu City. They also find traces of blood on the shower curtain, doormat, doorknob and bed sheets in the laundry area.

Jan. 16
Alona's brother, Josebil Bacolod, executes a sworn statement before the CIDG. He alleges that he saw Ecleo Jr. and his bodyguard Juryven Padero on the night of Jan. 5 loading a big black garbage bag into the trunk of Alona's red Toyota Corolla. His statement corroborates the sworn statements of five other witnesses.

Jan. 21
Parricide charges are filed

MURDER/A16

Mendoza welcomes golf probe

By TJ Burgonio, Juliet Javellana and Michael Lim Ubac

OUTGOING Philippine National Police Director General Leandro Mendoza is "appalled" by the recommendation of the Ombudsman's Visayas office to file administrative charges against him and six other police and military officials for reportedly playing golf with an alleged drug lord in Cebu City.

Even so, the incoming secretary of the Department of Transportation and Communications welcomes the investigation.

"That golf game is an old rehashed issue that has been clarified already," Mendoza said in a statement. "Should I be officially summoned for any investigation, I am more than ready to face it," he added.

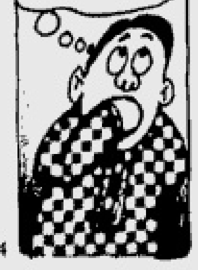
At least two investigations are in the offing. The chair of the House committee on dangerous drugs, which is investigating alleged drug lord Wellington Lim, said yesterday he would summon Mendoza to explain.

"It's a point against him. I hope there are no intimate relations between them," Cebu Rep. Antonio Cuenco said.

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto

MENDOZA/A4

Tooth phone: Hello, is it safe?



OK PALA MAG TEXT SA TOOTHPHONE HINDI HALATA

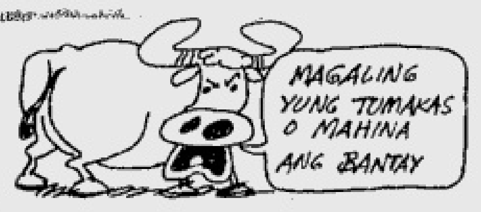
LONDON—Will British "tooth phones" take the bite out of mobile phones?

British engineers say they have invented a revolutionary tooth implant that works like a mobile phone and would not be out of place in a James Bond spy movie.

The "tooth phone," designed by James Auger and Jimmy Loizeau,

TOOTH/A4

Second FRONT PAGE


MAGALING YUNG TUMAKAS O MAHINA ANG BANTAY

Kidnap leader escapes from Crame

By TJ Burgonio

CALLING it "an unfortunate incident," police Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. confirmed the escape early yesterday of a suspected leader of the Pentagon gang and two other kidnapping suspects from Camp Crame in Quezon City.

Ebdane said Faizal Marohombsar, alleged operations chief of the Pentagon kidnap gang, and Abdul Macaompang and Rolando Patino, both believed to belong to other kidnap groups, escaped from the detention cell of the National anti-Crime Commission anti-KFR Task Force (Naktaf) in Camp Crame at around 1:30 a.m. Wednesday.

The Pentagon gang was believed behind the abduction last year of Italian priest Giuseppe Pierantoni in Mindanao.

Marohombsar was nabbed by Naktaf agents in Quiapo, Manila, on Feb. 16 and had been held at Naktaf headquarters in Camp Crame since then. Pierantoni was subsequently released by his captors.

The escape was only discovered at roll call later in the morning, police officials said. Ebdane has ordered a manhunt for the three.

Ebdane is the current head of Naktaf. He was also just recently appointed Philippine National Police chief replacing Director General Leandro Mendoza who is retiring and moving to the government.

When asked if an insider might have helped the three escape from the tightly guarded Naktaf headquarters, Ebdane said: "I won't believe that."

He could not explain, however, how the detainees managed to escape from the detention center, which is on the ground floor of the headquarters. "The investigation is ongoing," he said.

But he added, "They could have destroyed the padlock then climbed over the barbed wire-topped wall at the back."

In a related development, a member of the gang believed to have kidnapped Korean national Jae Keon-yoon and his Filipino business partner last February was arrested by police in Barangay Labangal, General Santos City, on Tuesday morning.

Senior Supt. Bartolome Baluyot said Ismael Binago, a suspected sub-leader of the emerging Abu Sufia kidnap gang, was lying wounded in a house in the barangay when police burst in.

Binago had been shot in the back during a clash with the military in a remote village of Maitum town, Sarangani, about two weeks ago.

The Abu Sufia were robbing the passengers of two trucks on the national highway in Sitio Takal, Barangay Pinol, when they fired at an ambulance carrying three Army soldiers which was bound for Palembang, Sultan Kudarat. ***With Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Gloria solid behind Drilon—Palace

By Juliet Labog-Javellana, Carlito Pablo and Rocky Nazareno

WHILE she stands solidly behind Senate President Franklin Drilon in the ongoing power struggle in the Senate, President Macapagal-Arroyo would not be averse to supporting an alternative "stable leadership" to save her legislative agenda, an official of the ruling Lakas-NUCD said yesterday.

"She is for Drilon but if necessary she will support an alternative leadership that will bring stability to the Senate," said the Lakas official who asked not to be named.

The unnamed official said the President was open to compromise proposals if these would lead to a stable Senate.

But Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., who co-chairs the party with the President, said Lakas would stick with Drilon since "both sides acknowledge him as the Senate President."

In Malacañang, presidential legislative adviser Gabriel Claudio denied that the Palace was plotting moves to resolve the Senate impasse or supporting moves to replace Drilon.

He denied an INQUIRER report yesterday that Malacañang was considering a compromise proposal that would see Sen. Juan Flavier taking over as Senate President.

The deal would reportedly pave the way for the defection into the administration bloc of Senators Aquilino Pimentel, Sergio Osmeña III and Rodolfo Biazon.

"As far as Malacañang is concerned, Senator Drilon is the Senate President and the leader of the administration coalition in the Senate," said Claudio.

He said Malacañang's and the President's support for Drilon remained "solid and undiminished."

At a luncheon with reporters yesterday, the President denied she has been calling up opposition senators to woo them over to the administration bloc.

But she noted that some quarters have apparently taken the initiative to court opposition senators.

"It's a free country," said Ms Macapagal who refused to comment further on the Senate row.

The unnamed Lakas official said that the administration was indeed holding talks with Pimentel, Sergio Osmeña III and Biazon and was amenable to conceding certain committees to the opposition.

But he said there were some "non-negotiable" committees, such as the public order and security and blue ribbon committees.

Administration Senators Ralph Recto and Francis Pangilinan yesterday were quick to declare their "full support" for Drilon.

In separate statements, Recto and Pangilinan said they did not believe that Malacañang was making such moves and warned that reports could be a trap laid by the opposition to set the administration senators against one another.

But Recto said he would welcome Pimentel, Osmeña and Biazon if they were to switch to their side as they could "deepen our bench."

De Venecia said the party was still counting on Drilon to clinch a "conceptual breakthrough" to prevent the scenario of two Senates convening on July 22.

"Senator Drilon is in the best position to organize a political settlement because he can reach out to the Angara group," De Venecia said.

De Venecia said he had been assured by Drilon that there was "no such plan" to install Flavier as new Senate president.

He said, however, that if no solution came up 10 days before the opening of Congress, he would intervene as Lakas co-chair.

"I don't want to interfere with the Senate but I appeal to them to find an amicable solution at once because our national interest is at stake here," he said.

Drilon, meanwhile, defended Sen. Loren Legarda, saying the talk of her "sleeping with the enemy" had no basis.

He said Legarda's statements on the need to forge a working coalition in the Senate should not be viewed from a partisan context but from the need to speed up the passage of urgent political and economic measures now awaiting action from the chamber.

Revilla's return won't help Gloria allies, says Angara

By Carlito Pablo, Rocky Nazareno and Christine Avendaño

SEN. Ramon Revilla is scheduled to return to Manila early today, a development that many believe would help to break the impasse in the Senate.

But Sen. Edgardo Angara, the putative leader of the "new majority" in the Senate, said the opposition would remain the majority despite the return of Revilla who had gone to the United States for a spinal operation.

Sen. John Osmeña's defection to the opposition during the absence of Revilla precipitated the Senate upheaval which resulted in the power balance in the chamber tilting in favor of the opposition, 12-11, from the previous 13-11 for the administration.

Angara and his allies declared themselves the "new majority" and started taking over committee chairmanships though they stopped short of replacing Senate President Franklin Drilon.

A vastly relieved Joey Rufino, the presidential adviser on political affairs, welcomed Revilla's reported arrival, saying the senators could now "sort out their problems."

"Now it's going to be 12-12," said Rufino who said the Palace had been assured by Revilla that he would stick with the administration bloc.

But Angara said the score remains at 12-11, claiming Senate rules did not allow the Senate President to vote to break the tie.

He said the members of the "new majority" remained resolute despite being allegedly courted by Malacañang.

Underscoring the real issues underlying the intense rivalry at the Senate, Angara and another opposition senator, Panfilo Lacson, yesterday delivered themselves of their ideas on the 2004 presidential election.

Lacson, long touted but always denied as having presidential plans, has declared his interest in running for the highest office to a group of friends, according to a reliable source.

"It was the first time that he has announced that he was interested in (running in) 2004," the source said.

The source said Lacson made the announcement at a meeting of his "close friends," including his "mistahs" from the Philippine Military Academy late Tuesday.

It was possible that Lacson was impelled to finally make a declaration after recent reports and speculations about possible opposition presidential candidates, the source said.

Since last week, the public has been titillated by varying combinations of presidential team-ups, with Angara reportedly eyeing administration Sen. Loren Legarda for his vice president.

Jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada, who is presumed to have a stake in the 2004 contest owing to his very serious legal problems, is reportedly urging his best friend, popular movie star Fernando Poe Jr. to carry the opposition standard.

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Abalos won't reinstate exec to keep Comelec united

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE NEW Commission on Elections chair, Benjamin Abalos, said he would not let anyone divide the poll body "again" even as he faces his first test with the possible return of a controversial Comelec official believed to have been one of the issues that had divided the commissioners.

Abalos was commenting on reports that the Comelec en banc was "prepared" to discuss the reinstatement of lawyer Angelina Matibag, the dismissed chair of the Comelec education and information department. Matibag, who is facing murder and frustrated murder charges for allegedly masterminding the ambush of her successor, is known to be a friend of Comelec commissioner Luz Tancangco.

But Abalos said he did not know Matibag, that he was not inclined to reinstate her nor had he given the matter any thought.

"I don't know this Matibag but I will not allow anyone to break the fusion that I have done in the Comelec," Abalos said.

Abalos, who apparently believes his mission is to unify the fractious poll body at all costs, declared that none of the commissioners had lobbied for the reappointment of Matibag.

Marcos' Swiss banker says he can't be forced to testify in US

HONOLULU—A Swiss financier reported to have helped Ferdinand Marcos manage assets insists that he should not be forced to testify regarding a $3.1-billion class-action judgment against the late Philippine president.

The financier, Jean-Louis Sunier, said Tuesday in Switzerland that he was unaware of a suggestion agreed to by his attorney in federal court in Hawaii that he make his deposition next month in Munich, Germany.

"Calling me to testify in this manner is a violation of the Hague Convention, which was signed by the United States and Switzerland," Sunier told The Associated Press. "It specifies that citizens of one country can only be questioned in their country."

Robert Swift, an attorney for Filipinos who successfully sued the Marcos estate, on Monday had asked US District Judge Manuel Real, visiting from Los Angeles, to find Sunier in contempt and fine him $10,000 a day until he testifies.

Real delayed ruling on the motion and gave attorneys two days to make a final offer that would allow Sunier to testify under certain conditions and avoid incriminating himself.

Attorneys were ordered to report progress back to Real by Wednesday, at which time he would decide on whether sanctions were warranted.

Sunier attorney Jack Cullen did not return a telephone call seeking comment Tuesday. He told the judge he would recommend to his client that he accept the offer.

Sherry Broder, another attorney who represents the class-action plaintiffs, said Tuesday she also had not heard whether the latest offer was accepted by Sunier.

Swift said he believes Sunier can provide information that would be helpful in enforcing a $2 billion judgment against the Marcos estate that has grown to $3.1 billion with interest. *AP*

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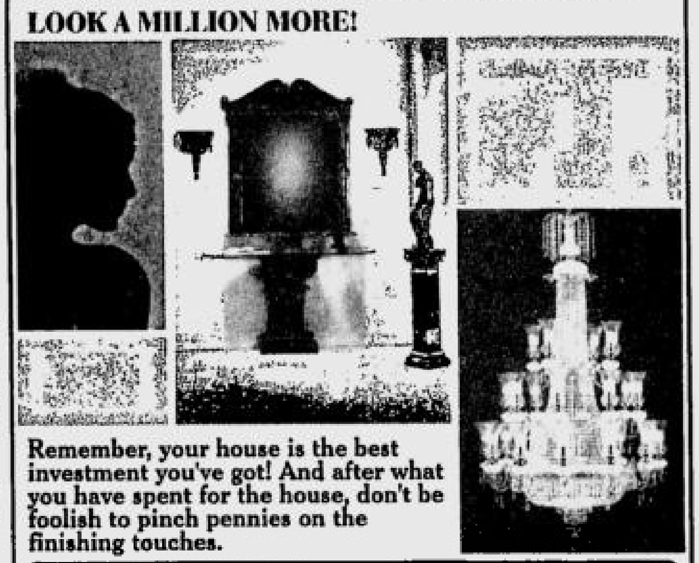

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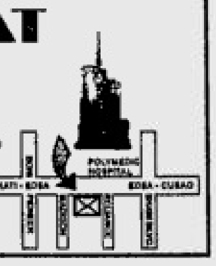

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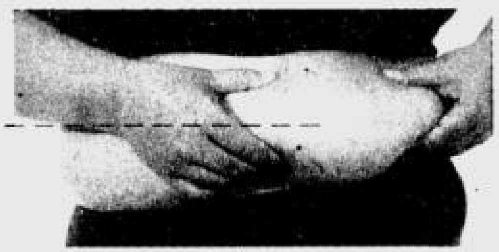

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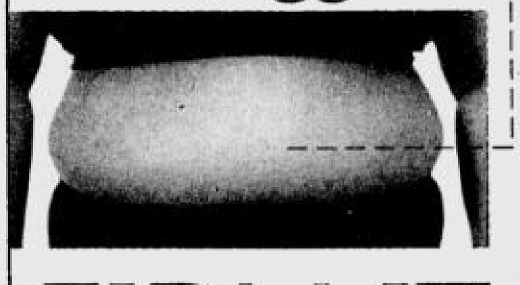

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Abducted Indonesian gets away in Jolo

From page A1

yesterday and is now in the custody of the military.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Roy Cimatu said Ferdinand Joel, second officer of SM88, the Singaporean-registered tugboat, was recovered in Luuk, Sulu, yesterday morning.

Cimatu declined to give further details, but Brig. Gen. Teofilo de los Santos said a Marine rescue team dispatched to bring the Indonesian sailor to safety found him trembling in fear.

De los Santos said Joel had apparently escaped from his captors late Tuesday.

Residents in Barangay Nangkaan hid Joel in a hut and notified authorities after he wandered into the village, he added.

In Camp Aguinaldo, military spokesperson Melchor Rosales said Joel was recovered at around 10 a.m. by the 3rd Marine Brigade, assisted by local officials led by Luuk Mayor Abdurakman Arbison.

He was then brought to Camp Andres in Luuk for debriefing. The military later sent two helicopters to bring Joel to this city.

Joel, Rosales said, was "in good physical condition."

"As of now, (the identity of the abductors) has not been established," Rosales said. But with Joel's recovery in Sulu, the Abu Sayyaf, which operates in both Basilan and Jolo, emerged as the top suspect.

There was no immediate word on the fate of the three other Indonesians—boat captain Munku Yacobus Windwatan, chief engineer Pieter Lerrich, and chief engineer Zulkifli—or their captors, said Col. Benedicto Corona, who heads the 3rd Marine Brigade.

Travel advisory

In Davao City, Indonesian Vice Consul Johannes Manginsela said Jakarta would not issue any travel advisory against the Philippines in the wake of the incident.

Manginsela said Indonesia was treating the abduction as one unfortunate "incident." More than 10,000 Indonesians live in Mindanao, most of them based in Saranggani, South Cotabato.

"But we are serious about protecting our nationals, we are taking care of this matter," he said.

He reiterated the Indonesian government's faith in the Philippine military.

"We are confident about the ability of the Philippine authorities to handle the matter, we are respecting its national territory," he said.

He also denied that the Indonesian government was poised to pay ransom.

"There would be no negotiation and no bargaining. We leave it to the (Philippine government)," he said.

Rosales said Indonesian authorities were not present at the recovery of Joel.

"This is a Philippine operation. In the meantime, we have informed the consul of the Indonesian consulate in Davao regarding this incident and they are supposed to go to Zamboanga . . . to assist in the debriefing of the remaining six (crew) and to try and assist also in the interpretation of certain matters that were not completely clarified," he said.

The Indonesians were taken at gunpoint Monday by 11 men in military fatigues riding in three speedboats. The gunmen stopped the tugboat and fired warning shots before abducting the captain and three officers, navy officials said.

The gunmen left six junior crew members in the tugboat, which was on a two-week run from Indonesia to Cebu to deliver coal to a power plant, said Sthillainathan Thillai, a manager for the vessel's Singaporean owner.

Monetary reward

During a luncheon with reporters in Calamba, Laguna, President Macapagal-Arroyo broke the news.

"They just recovered him now and they still have to debrief him," the President said.

Cimatu had called up the President shortly before lunch to relay the news. Ms Macapagal said the residents of Luuk deserve a monetary reward for assisting Joel.

"We are happy, because immediately there is already a breakthrough," Presidential Adviser for Mindanao Jesus Dureza said.

At the Department of Foreign Affairs, officials called the abduction "a serious concern." That the culprits remain unidentified was worrying, Undersecretary Franklin Ebdalin said.

But if the seajacking was indeed perpetrated by Abu Sayyaf bandits, this would "complicate further the situation in the South because now the Abu Sayyaf is taking hostages from a fellow Muslim country (sic)," Undersecretary Lauro Baja added.

"We informed the Indonesian Embassy that we are thoroughly investigating the incident, that it has caught the attention of the highest official of the government and that Indonesia and Malaysia are cooperating closely," Baja said.

The kidnapping prompted Malacañang to convene the Cabinet Oversight Committee on Internal Security yesterday morning to discuss the situation, said Ebdalin, who attended the meeting.

Maj. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, chief of the Southern Command, said investigators were also looking into other angles, including mutiny by the crew, abduction by other groups or a staged kidnapping, to explain the incident.

"The situation right now is that until we get the true story, we consider all the possibilities," he said.

Pirates, smugglers and drug and gun traffickers roam the vast seas in the country's extreme south, near the border with Malaysia and Indonesia.

PNP change of command rites rescheduled to July 4

By TJ Burgonio
and Norman Bordadora

IT'S FINAL. Outgoing Philippine National Police chief Director General Leandro Mendoza will turn over his post to Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. on July 4.

The change of command was moved anew from June 21 because July 4 was the only time President Macapagal-Arroyo was available, said Senior Supt. Jefferson Soriano, secretary to the Directorial Staff.

Chief Supt. Crescencio Maralit, acting PNP spokesperson, announced on Monday that the turnover was set for June 21 or early next week following Ms Macapagal's orders that Mendoza take over as transportation and communications secretary as soon as possible.

Sources had said that it was Mendoza who had requested the President to allow him to stay at his PNP post until the end of June. But Soriano denied this, saying it was Mendoza who proposed that the turnover be held June 21.

The man whom Mendoza is replacing had kind words for his successor. Resigned DOTC Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez yesterday called on the country's transportation and communications sectors to extend "broad-based" support to Mendoza.

Alvarez asked Mendoza's critics to give the incoming secretary enough time to perform his functions and duties before judging his ability to take over the helm at the department.

"Secretary Mendoza is still in the prime of his active life and the public should not waste his experiences and qualifications, especially his commitment to democracy as shown during the most trying of times," Alvarez said in a statement.

Meanwhile, the Association of General and Flag Officers Inc. (Agfo), a group of retired military officials, expressed support for the appointment of Ebdane as the 10th PNP chief.

Mendoza welcomes golf probe

From page A1

also got into the act. He ordered Deputy Ombudsman for the Military Orlando Casimiro to immediately act on the recommendation of the Visayas office.

"I have ordered the Deputy Ombudsman for the Visayas to submit his findings and recommendations to (Casimiro), considering that the latter's office has jurisdiction over the case . . . and in order for him to conduct a formal investigation if there is evidence to support the case," Desierto told the INQUIRER.

Mendoza himself did not face the media. It was his special assistant, retired police general Thompson Lantion, who described the incoming DOTC secretary as "appalled" by the recommendation of Visayas Ombudsman Director Virginia Santiago to file administrative charges.

Congressional inquiry

Cuenco said Mendoza should not assume the DOTC post until he has explained himself on the issue.

"That was a very indiscreet act, to say the least," said Cuenco, who is in Geneva attending the International Labor Organization conference.

"That is a very sensitive position and so he should be like Caesar's wife who should be above suspicion," Cuenco said.

He said the brothers Peter and Wellington Lim were currently under investigation by his committee for their alleged involvement in big-time drug dealings in Cebu. The investigation was already ongoing when Mendoza allegedly played golf with Lim last Nov. 12.

Cuenco said the committee had not yet recommended the prosecution of Peter Lim pending results of a more thorough investigation, but he said the committee had already recommended his prosecution for perjury.

He said Wellington Lim was also under investigation because he is allegedly personally involved in illegal drugs shipment between Manila and Hong Kong. He is engaged in the textile business.

Besides Mendoza, Santiago also recommended charges against the PNP's Rex Piad, Thomas Lantion, Carlito Dimaano, Oscar Calderon and Dennis Canoy, and Philippine Navy Commodore George Uy.

Lantion and Piad branded the charges as malicious and baseless. Both said they believed the publication of the Ombudsman's recommendation was part of a smear campaign against Mendoza, whose appointment has to be confirmed by the bicameral Commission on Appointments.

"The timing (of the publication) and this being out of the normal process of the Ombudsman is obviously malicious. I would suppose somebody is handling this kind of publication," Deputy Director General Piad told reporters. "We don't want to preempt anything here but I would say that the timing is suspect."

One week

Desierto gave Casimiro one week to complete his evaluation of the findings and evidence. He said Casimiro would evaluate the findings "as quickly as possible" to "determine if a probable cause exists for the conduct of administrative proceedings."

Asked if the findings would merit a formal administrative investigation of Mendoza et al., Desierto said: "I can't pass upon that. The Deputy Ombudsman for the Military should evaluate (the findings) first. I can't preempt his actions. I will expect his recommendations in one week."

He added: "An administrative proceeding is a trial. So as always, we will first evaluate the evidence before conducting the trial."

On Monday, Santiago filed her recommendation, saying that a fact-finding probe proved that contrary to Mendoza's earlier claims that he only happened to meet Lim at the golf course, it was Lim who actually "sponsored" the game.

Santiago said that Mendoza's act of playing with Lim, who was then and still is the subject of a pending congressional investigation along with his brother Peter, was "degrading to the integrity" of the PNP.

Santiago ruled that the act constituted "conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the service."

If found guilty by the Ombudsman Administrative Adjudication Board, Mendoza et al. could be suspended, dismissed, or perpetually disqualified from holding any public office.

In addition, their leave credits and other retirement benefits could be forfeited.

Desierto said that the act of playing golf with a shady character was not "unethical per se" for a public official.

"However, it is always a violation of the ethical standards in public office if you allow private parties to spend for your personal activities.

"For an administrative trial to proceed, there must be a proof that Lim indeed paid for the game and other personal expenses of the PNP and Navy officials," he said.

Piad and Lantion maintained that they neither met nor played golf with Lim. They also said that they were never introduced to him.

Piad pointed out that only five of them—he, Mendoza, Lantion, Canoy and one Jojo Arizola—played in their flight. "There was no Mr. Wellington Lim with us. If his signature was on our scorecards, there must be something wrong," he said.

He also said that he and his fellow officers paid their own bills. "We paid for our bills. I can't remember how much I gave Canoy to pay for my bill. Each one of us paid for our bill," he said.

Tooth phone . . .

From page A1

consists of a tiny vibrator and a radio wave receiver implanted into a tooth during routine dental surgery.

The implant does not yet have its own microchip installed, but Auger says the technology is tried and tested, and a fully functional phone could be put together in no time at all.

"With the current size of microchips, this is feasible. They are now small enough to implant in the tooth," he told Reuters on Tuesday.

Sound, which comes into the tooth as a digital radio signal, is transferred to the inner ear by bone resonance. This means information can be received anywhere, any time—and nobody else can listen in.

The invention raises the prospects of financial traders receiving the latest stock market bulletins while at the cinema and politicians tuning in to secret briefings from advisers while being quizzed by opponents.

Despite its similarity to high tech gadgets dreamt up by Bond's faithful sidekick "Q," the inventors believe the gizmo could become the first in a whole suite of non-medical devices implanted into the human body.

Of course, sending text messages through the tooth phone would be impossible—or would they? *Reuters*

Israel reoccupies Palestinian areas

From page A1

The government's decision, accompanied by Army raids into the West Bank cities of Jenin, Nablus and Qalqilya, further complicated US President George W. Bush's preparations for a speech laying out a road map for creating a Palestinian state.

The Washington Post newspaper said Bush had planned to deliver the speech on Wednesday, outlining his vision for Middle East peacemaking, but delayed it following the deadliest suicide bombing in Jerusalem in six years.

Israeli policy in the 20-month-old Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation has been dominated in recent weeks by brief military raids into Palestinian-ruled parts of the West Bank in which it has arrested suspected militants.

But the government agreed at a late-night meeting to extend its stays when it enters such areas in the future, angering Palestinian officials.

"It was decided to change Israel's policy of response to terror," an Israeli government statement said.

"Israel will respond to terrorist acts by capturing territories of the Palestinian Authority. These territories will be held by Israel as long as terror continues. Further terrorist acts will bring about further (retaking) of territory."

Condemnation

The statement also said Israel would "undertake a series of military actions against the Palestinian Authority, killer organizations and anyone connected to them."

Palestinian Information Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo said Israel was out to destroy the Palestinian Authority.

"They want only to use terror as a pretext in order to launch their terror against the Palestinian people and against any possibility of establishing a Palestinian independent state," he told Reuters.

Palestinian Cabinet Minister Saeb Erekat added: "Sharon is trying to foil any international effort aimed at reviving the peace process before such an effort begins. Sharon is trying to abort every effort, even if it comes from US President George W. Bush."

Israeli defense ministry sources later said work to erect a security fence along the porous frontier with the West Bank, which started at the weekend, would be accelerated.

The United States did not immediately comment on the Israeli government's statement.

Suicide bombings have continued against Israelis despite a five-week Israeli military offensive in the West Bank that ended in early May and almost daily military raids into West Bank cities, towns, villages and refugee camps since then.

Israeli political sources said the Army would in the future occupy more Palestinian-ruled land in response to each attack.

"How long the territories will be held after violence ceases is not clear now but it's a big change in policy," one source said.

Israel captured the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the 1967 Middle East war. Under the Oslo interim peace accords, Palestinians won self-rule in areas amounting to about 40 percent of the West Bank and 60 percent of the Gaza Strip.

Bush plan

Sharon rejected the creation of a Palestinian state any time soon when he visited the scene of Tuesday's suicide bombing.

The Washington Post, citing US and diplomatic sources, said Bush's new Middle East policy would call for the early creation of a provisional Palestinian state and the completion of negotiations over permanent borders within three years.

It said Bush would propose that the plan be adopted at a Middle East peace conference, tentatively set for September, provided there had been progress in revamping Palestinian security forces and reducing violence against Israelis. *Reports from Reuters and AP*

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Gloria says she's 'touched' by Mike's defense

By Carlito Pablo

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo was "touched" by the defense put up for her by First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo after she was referred to in an INQUIRER report as "*pandak*" (short person).

"Yes I was touched. I appreciated it," President Macapagal said of Arroyo's having written the INQUIRER to protest.

Ms Macapagal said her husband did it "on his own" after the paper ran a story Monday of the looming contest between her and action star Fernando Poe Jr. in the 2004 elections.

The report billed the fight as one between "Ang Panday," after the role Poe played in the movie of the same title, and "Ang Pandak," in reference to Ms Macapagal.

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Politics of revamp

EDITORIAL

THE LAST word we have from Malacañang is that there will be a further revamp of senior positions in the executive department. Acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable Jr. has said that the Cabinet changes announced two weeks ago were just the beginning of a shake-up of key executive positions, not excluding Cabinet posts, ahead of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's second State of the Nation Address in July.

Even the days of Afable himself as press secretary seem to be numbered after former Muntinlupa Rep. Ignacio Bunye confirmed that he had been offered the post. In the wake of the Cabinet shake-up, highlighted by the replacement of Pantaleon Alvarez by Philippine National Police Director General Leandro Mendoza, President Macapagal made some new appointments that made the firing of the incumbents look like summary executions (the replaced officials did not receive advance notice). Former Cavite Gov. Ramon Revilla Jr., son of Sen. Ramon Revilla, was named chair of the Video Regulatory Board. Alejandro Roces was surprised to know he had been replaced by Marilen Dinglasan as chief of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board. And former Quezon City Rep. Dante Liban was appointed as director general of Tesda (Technical Education and Skills Development Authority) in place of Lucita Lazo.

It would have been easier to believe the reshuffle is part of the effort to streamline the Cabinet and the upper bureaucracy if it were not for the fact that the President is wooing Senator Revilla to remain steadfast in the ranks of the administration senators which is being raided by the opposition to capture control of the Senate. Bunye is reported to have been offered the job of press secretary as part of the deal to clear the way for Sen. Rodolfo Biazon's son, Rep. Rozanno Rufino Biazon, to run unopposed for a second term in 2004. The administration is targeting Senator Biazon to switch to the administration side in the current Senate power struggle. And Dinglasan is a trustee of the GMA (Ginintuan at Makabayang Alay) Foundation, which plans to stage a soap opera on the theme "Lavandera," built around the siege of Malacañang on May 1, 2001.

From this point of view, it is clear that the reshuffle is not at all unlinked to the administration's effort to raid the ranks of the opposition in the Senate. It has also the earmarks of delivering "jobs for the boys," distributing political rewards to Macapagal allies during the campaign to unseat former President Joseph Estrada.

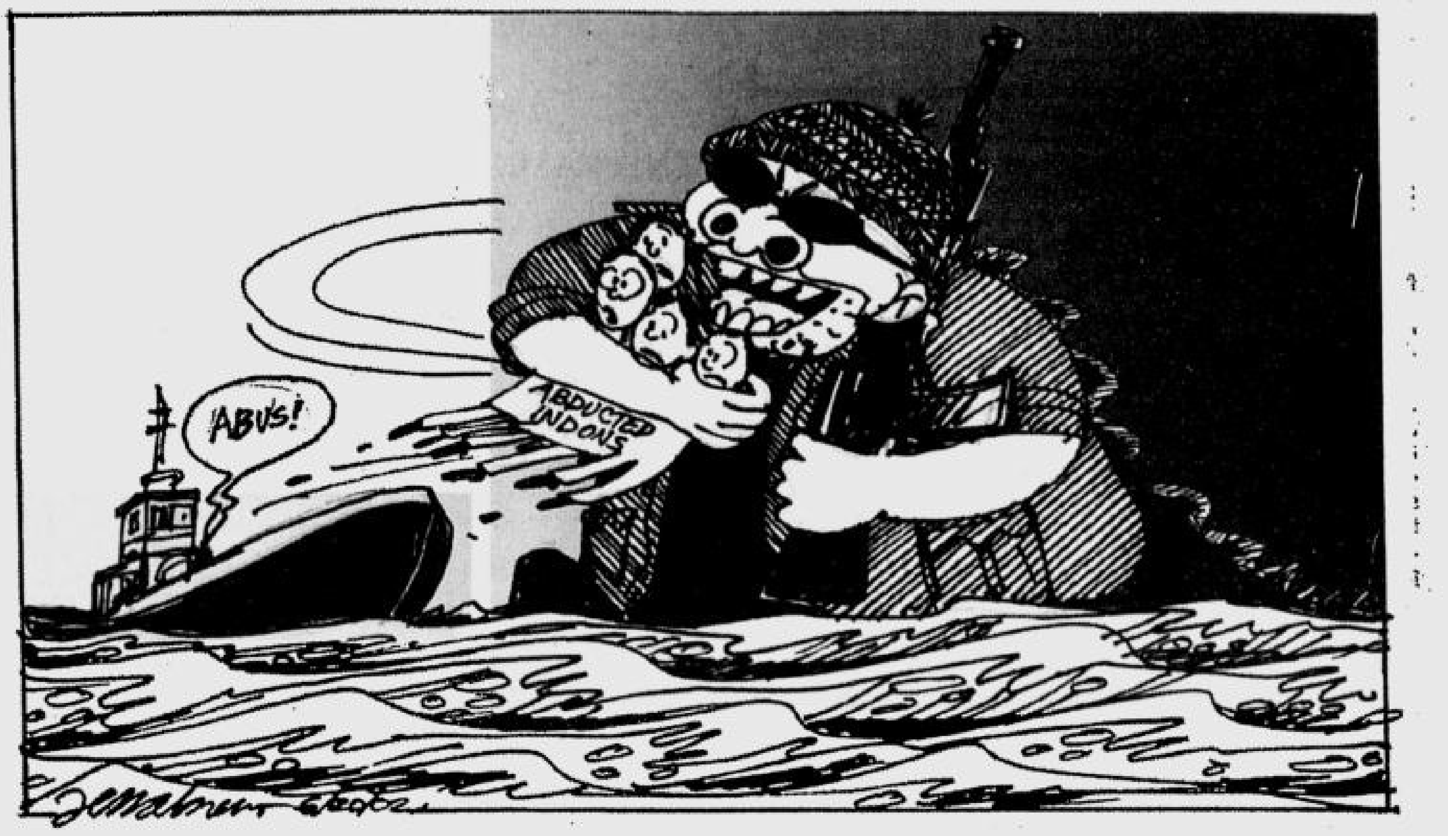
Through this system of rewards and trade-offs, it becomes clear that Ms Macapagal is not sparing any effort to strengthen her political position in advance of the 2004 elections. Whether these changes will strengthen and improve the performance of the Cabinet and bureaucracy is another matter.

Already, doubts have been expressed publicly about Mendoza's technical credentials to handle the Department of Transportation and Communication. Even before he could assume his new position, ethical questions have also been raised in connection with his playing golf with people suspected of drug trafficking.

In her first State of the Nation Address, the President set concrete goals for her Cabinet members. They will be held to account when she addresses Congress next month.

As their performance is being reviewed, Ms Macapagal has no doubt been given a pointer as to who among the members of the Cabinet are falling short of the goals she set a year ago. This should be a good basis for further Cabinet changes. Apparently, the reshuffle of the past two weeks was dictated by norms other than performance. The President does not want for criteria with which to measure results. She has to go back to these criteria, otherwise the forthcoming changes will be seen as politically driven.

The President has been visiting the provinces at a bruising pace to monitor the concerns of local governments. There is nothing inherently objectionable about these forays. But during these visits, there has been a pronounced lack of concern over the rise of kidnappings, including the killing of diplomats. The war on crime requires a new shift of emphasis. But there seems to be no hurry on the part of Malacañang to turnover the PNP to its new chief, Hermogenes Ebdane.



Some suggestions on improving traffic

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

YESTERDAY, this column dwelt on the vanishing sidewalks of Metro Manila. Today it will show one result of that disappearance.

Journalist Corito Fiel was sideswiped by a passing van as it turned a corner on Pasay Road, Makati, about a week ago. She suffered broken ribs, a head wound and big bruises, contusions and scratches on the face and body. She was confined at the intensive care unit of the Makati Medical Center for several days.

But the most infuriating part was that there were four to six traffic policemen and MMDA personnel near the accident site, at the corner of Pasay Road and Edsa. Not one of them helped Corito who was bleeding in the head. The 24-year-old woman driver of the van got off and tried to help her, calling on passing pedestrians for help. Several passersby stopped to look but did not help. They simply moved on. It was two Metro Aides on a passing bus who got off and helped them. A taxicab stopped (the van had crashed into a wall) and they took Corito to the emergency room of the MMC.

Why did the traffic cops not help? Because they were reluctant to leave the corner of Pasay Road and Edsa. It was already 4 p.m., the start of the one-way traffic on Pasay Road going eastward. This is the lucrative hour for mulcting drivers, stopping them for making a right turn on Edsa from Pasay Road for purported traffic violations, including making the right turn while the red light is on against Pasay Road although Edsa toward Magallanes is clear of traffic.

The cops also watch out for vehicles violating the color coding rule and the seatbelt law. But no arrests are made or charges filed. The drivers are only apprehended, followed by solicitation of grease money. The cops are there not to impose traffic order. They are there for only one purpose: to shake down the motorists.

Corito's uncle, Judge Dionisio Capistrano who lives in Dasmariñas Village, has written his observations on the behavior of traffic and of the cops on that corner.

Big buses on Edsa coming from Magallanes and Pasay City often cross Pasay Road even when the red light is on, he wrote, in a bid to beat other buses to the next corner where the closed Petron station is located. The traffic cops don't bother them.

Pedestrians crossing Edsa have to scamper for their lives and have to squeeze themselves between the back of one bus and the front of another, thus exposing themselves not only to the danger of being crushed between two buses but also to the other danger of being sideswiped by other buses also violating the red light as the pedestrians emerge from between the front and rear bumpers of the other buses.

The traffic personnel don't pay attention to these violations since they all are at the diagonally opposite corner (where Guernica's Restaurant used to be) watching out for vehicles violating the color coding and seatbelt law and turning right to Edsa from Pasay Road.

There is a conflict of flow when the Pasay Road light is green—conflict between the pedestrians crossing Edsa and the vehicles from Pasay Road turning left to Edsa.

When the light at that corner is out of order, no traffic cop directs traffic. It is a case of every pedestrian and driver for himself. All the MMDA and police personnel are at the opposite side, mulcting drivers.

Buses also block the entrance and exit road of Dasmariñas Village, causing traffic snarls.

Capistrano's suggestion: Police/MMDA personnel—committed to enforcing traffic order, not to mulct drivers—should be stationed at each of the four corners of this intersection.

* * *

The situation at the intersection of Commonwealth Avenue and Tandang Sora, below the flyover in Quezon City, is different. On lucky days during rush hours, there are traffic aides there. The trouble is, they don't know what to do. Have their superiors forgotten to instruct them on what to do? So the traffic situation there, with or without traffic aides, is chaotic.

The Department of Public Works and Highways has considerably widened—and is still widening—Commonwealth Avenue to absorb all those vehicles which, at times, are more numerous than those on Edsa. But the vehicles are still snarled at most intersections, as at the corner of Tandang Sora, because commuters waiting for rides block the intersections. They occupy about half of Commonwealth. All the millions of pesos spent to widen it are for naught.

Vehicles on Tandang Sora wanting to turn right to Commonwealth can't do that because commuters are standing in the middle of the intersection. Buses and jeepneys on Commonwealth stop right in the middle of the intersections to load, unload, wait and call for passengers.

Traffic aides don't even try to tell the commuters to clear the intersection, move to the sidewalk and wait for rides there.

My suggestion: Build a waiting shed near the Shell gas station. Put steel railings snaking back and forth (like those in entertainment parks) so commuters will fall in line. Don't allow buses and jeepneys to load and unload away from the waiting shed (there should be one for buses and another for jeepneys). Make all commuters waiting for rides fall in line. Make them understand that it is faster that way.

Filipino first

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

FERNANDO Campos, Carlos P. Garcia's son-in-law, said some very interesting things in his remarks last week on the 31st death anniversary of his father-in-law, the former president. Garcia's life, he said, is worth pondering in the light of a couple of unsavory things that have taken place today.

One of them is the petty wrangling, or power plays, at the Senate. Public officials find it the easiest thing in the world to switch parties, or worse, switch sides, for personal benefit. That would have been unconscionable to Garcia. He remained from first to last a Nacionalista, never switching parties, believing that political parties and what they stood for were bigger than personal careers. Though he ran as vice president for a turncoat—Ramon Magsaysay was a Liberal turned Nacionalista overnight—he himself never wavered from that belief, and lived all his life by it. Were he around, he would have been shocked by the spectacle of greed and selfishness that have become the overruling passions of this day.

Two is the demise of nationalist fervor, or of nationalist sentiment itself. Indeed, nationalism hasn't only died, it has become an object of distrust, or opprobrium. Nationalism, which used to mean love of country, has turned into a bad word, something the ordinary citizen, and not just the non-ordinary politician, now tries to avoid like the plague. How that has come to pass would have amazed Garcia.

Garcia, Campos said, was of course the architect of Filipino First. That was a policy of nurturing the Filipino industry by giving it all the protection and incentive it needed. But more than that, it was a policy of encouraging national pride. It came from an abiding faith in the capabilities of the Filipino, capabilities that could be made to flower with a little help from the government. It wasn't just about wearing *barong Tagalog*, it was about being deeply proud to be Filipino.

I'll leave the first observation to a later time. But the part about the demise of nationalism is truly something to think about. To say that nationalism is lying on its deathbed today is not to exaggerate: you can hear its dying gasps. Again, I beg to disagree with Jose Abueva's findings about most Filipinos being proud to be Filipino. I agree in fact with that letter-writer last Saturday who wrote to say that he figured the results of Abueva's survey owed to perfunctory, or knee-jerk, responses to questions about being Filipino. Most Filipinos will say they are proud to be Filipino, most Filipinos will not know what that means. Certainly, they will not know what that means in daily life. Especially so today, when we've pretty much exhumed the glory days of Edward Lansdale and John Wayne.

But like I said last Monday, I also wonder when nationalism was ever the animating or overriding force of this country, at least for the last 50 years. The fact that Garcia himself had to launch a Filipino First policy testifies to the extent of what we did not have even then. Filipino First is a concept that is not unlike the one called "Filipiniana." "Filipiniana" is, among other things, the category that you find in libraries or book stores depicting works by Filipinos. A category that has been criticized by eagle-eyed literary critics for suggesting at the very least that Filipino works are not mainstream but exist at the fringes of national consciousness, and at the very most that they are exotica or objects of curiosity. A good point, though arguably Filipino works do lie at the margins of national preoccupations and are artifacts that take the fancy largely of scholars and collectors.

One may say the same thing about Filipino First, if more in appreciation than criticism. The fact that you have a Filipino First policy must suggest at the very least that the Filipino is not first in his own country and at the very most that he may even be last. It is to suggest that in trade and commerce, Filipinos tend to buy foreign first and Filipino last. It is to suggest that in foreign policy, Filipinos tend to serve the foreign interest first and the Filipino one last. It is to suggest that in citizenship, Filipinos tend to want to become foreign citizens first (though they will deny that in surveys) and Filipinos last.

Other Southeast Asian countries have never needed a similar campaign for a simple reason. Being Thai or Malaysian or Singaporean naturally meant putting Thailand and Malaysia and Singapore first.

As it is, Garcia paid for his Filipino First dearly. When the Filipinos came to vote in 1961, they did not vote Filipino first. They voted Diosdado Macapagal first.

But if nationalism was hard to come by then, it is next to impossible to come by today. It has been trampled upon by the march of false globalization and an even falser anti-terrorism. From a badge of honor, it has become a brand of shame. Nobody wants to be called a nationalist today, it is synonymous with communist, subversive, or as someone put it recently "ultranationalist." Well, the fate of nationalism is the fate of the nation too.

Think about it: Over the last half-century, we've tried all sorts of systems from liberal democracy to martial law, and have come up short. Other Asian countries that have tried authoritarian rule have gotten ahead of us. Other Asian countries that have tried various types of democracy have gotten ahead of us. Indeed, other Asian countries that have tried communism have gotten ahead of us. We keep looking for a system that will work for us, but the problem has never been the system, it has always been the attitude. Quite simply, other Asians put themselves first in their own country. We put ourselves last.

We will never be first without thinking Filipino First.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

Not 'interfering'

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE OPPOSITION has criticized President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for allegedly "raiding" its ranks, but they must understand that this is how the political process works in a democracy. As head of the coalition of various parties under the People Power Coalition, she has to preserve her alliance's hold on Congress or her legislative agenda would be imperiled. Every president does this. GMA has to shepherd each and every member of the coalition in the Senate and the House to make sure it keeps its grip on power. That is not "interfering" with the chambers' independence.

* * *

In the last analysis, so intertwined are the affairs of both Congress and the executive branch that there is no such thing as "interference" on the part of the President. What is there is the effort of each side to influence events in order to obtain its end goal: political dominance. Whenever legislators summon Cabinet secretaries to defend their budget, they cajole them to hew to the policies dictated by Congress. Usually the dominant members of Congress come from the same party or coalition as the President. In turn, in seeking to preserve the coalition, the President wants to ensure that her programs are supported by Congress.

* * *

Reports indicate that the administration coalition is wooing three senators who voted against former President Estrada in the impeachment trial: Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Sergio Osmeña III and Rodolfo Biazon. It is sensible to pursue this strategy for I dare say that in their caucuses with the rest of the opposition, these three senators must have wondered, at one point or another, what they were doing with the likes of Senators Luisa Estrada, Panfilo Lacson, Edgardo Angara, Gregorio Honasan, Vicente Sotto and the other Erap loyalists. These three senators are really odd men out in the opposition.

If they are now being subjected by the opposition to a psywar that would brand anyone who crosses to the administration side as an "opportunist," they must realize that far from being that, they will be patriots, for it will show that they are putting the country's interest above anything else, risking criticism in order to break the impasse in the Senate. With the House clearly in the hands of the administration coalition, a Senate that is in the hands of the opposition will get the country nowhere in terms of the legislative agenda. The Senate opposition, with its eye on recapturing power in 2004, will thwart anything the administration proposes.

* * *

Is Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez being *kapalmuks* or *kapit-tuko* in refusing to resign from the DENR, as some people are saying? I would say, far from it. The *kapalmuks* are those against whom he has slapped administrative charges before the Ombudsman even though it was not politically expedient for him to do so, and those protecting big vested interests which couldn't make any headway with Alvarez. The DENR chief faced stiff opposition in the Commission on Appointments' environment committee because of the machinations of the Abaya-Sandoval-Pichay group, but he successfully hurdled them one by one, so that the committee chair, Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., assured him of certain confirmation by June 5. But that was snagged by Sen. John Osmeña's sudden desertion to the other side. Now his foes have shifted tactics, and they are trying to destroy him through the media, using megabucks, by clamoring that, like Bebot Alvarez, he should resign "out of *delicadeza*." But to resign would be misplaced *delicadeza*, for Heherson Alvarez had disproved the many allegations hurled against him at the confirmation hearings. Why should he be punished because of the machinations of vested interests?

* * *

During my recent trip to Boracay to help judge a painting of sails contest sponsored by the DENR, I was shocked to see the poor state of the roads on the island, the country's primary tourist destination. The beaches remain gorgeous as ever, but the roads are bad, making travel a real penance on board the only available mode of transportation—tricycles. We in media brought up this topic to Aklan Gov. Florencio Miraflores as we watched the regatta, and he assured us that with problems over electric power and the sewage now solved, he would attend to the improvement of the roads.

This is a problem the governor as well as Aklan Rep. Gabrielle Calizo must attend to immediately, for Boracay continues to draw the tourists. SeaAir, the airline that co-sponsored the sailboat-painting contest, makes eight to nine trips daily from Manila to Caticlan on its 18-seater planes which are nearly always full. PAL has two flights daily flights to Kalibo, which is also serviced by Asian Spirit and other airlines.

* * *

For the return flight to Manila, I hitched a ride with DENR forester Yuri Aborka from Caticlan to Kalibo, and I noted how verdant and lush Aklan is, with its mountains still covered with forests. The boundary between Tangalan and Ibajay, where the DENR's Campo Verde is located, is especially beautiful. Aborka confirmed that among the four provinces of Panay—Iloilo, Capiz, Antique and Aklan—the last has the thickest forest cover at 22 percent, still below the ideal of 40 percent but better than most of the country. My praises for the border area between Tangalan and Ibajay were especially gratifying to Aborka, for he grew up in Campo Verde where his father, Alberto Aborka, was a forester too. The elder Aborka taught his son how to love and care for the forests, so that following in his footsteps became a foregone conclusion for Yuri. I kidded the son that the province should erect a statue to his father.

By the way, Aklan is the hometown of the famed *ati-atihan*, but I understand that Ibajay has the most colorful version among all the towns there.

Shabby treatment

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

CABINET secretaries and lower-level executives often say they serve "at the pleasure" of the President. And true enough, as head of the executive branch, the President has full discretion over who stays in or leaves her official family. But is it too much to expect basic courtesies and a fair hearing for those who are being let go?

Among the changes made in the second wave of reshuffling by Malacañang, MTRCB Chair Alejandro Roces was replaced by his erstwhile vice chair, and Lucita Lazo was replaced as head of Tesda, the government's vocational and non-traditional training arm, by former Quezon City Rep. Dante Liban.

Roces had reportedly been complaining about the heavy workload involved with chairing the MTRCB, and his transfer to a government corporation board was supposedly meant to lift the burden from him. But typically, he learned of his new assignment only in the papers, and is apparently quite upset at what he undoubtedly considers shabby treatment. It certainly shouldn't make him feel any better that his replacement's credentials to head the review board don't seem to go beyond being a former classmate of the President.

* * *

LAZO'S ouster is even more disturbing. She was in Palawan when the story about her successor's appointment was published and even told friends there was no truth to it since she hadn't heard anything from Malacañang.

"Tell her that's the way Malacañang has always operated," I told a mutual friend.

Lazo's replacement also sends the wrong message to Tesda employees and to the talent managers, promoters and recruiters it deals with. Lazo had devoted much of her time, and waded into controversy, by seeking to reform the entire system of accreditation and licensing of overseas performing artists, which has been riddled by corruption and exploitation of the entertainers, most of whom are young women.

By relieving Lazo, is Malacañang saying it doesn't pay to rock the boat and antagonize one's constituents—even if the goal is to reform the system?

The post of Tesda head is said to have long been offered to Liban, who lost his bid for Quezon City mayor in the last elections. There are those who say his new appointment is meant to keep him safely tucked away in the bureaucracy so he doesn't pose a threat to Mayor Sonny Belmonte's reelection plans. But if Liban's appointment is motivated solely for political purposes, it's a lousy way to treat Lazo who sought only to clean up her immediate sphere of influence in the wake of Edsa Dos.

* * *

FOR SOMEONE who has yet to take the MRT for fear of collapsing midway up the stairs, judging a logo contest on "responsible mountaineering" is akin to a hearing-impaired person judging a singing contest. What is responsible mountaineering anyway?

It is, say the contest organizers from the Mountaineering Federation of the Philippines, keeping true to the mountaineers' creed: "Take nothing but pictures; leave nothing but footprints; kill nothing but time." This is best summed up as "low impact" mountaineering, where climbers seek to leave the places they visit with hardly any trace of their presence after they leave. But responsible mountaineering also involves basic safety practices, waste management, climb ethics (in dealing with fellow climbers), and respect for the communities they encounter along the way.

An information and public education campaign on responsible mountaineering is deemed particularly urgent simply because of the growing number of people taking up climbing and hiking, often without any basic training or orientation. "It's seen as a form of extreme sports," said lawyer Ari-Ben Sebastian, also of the MFP, "and people think they can start climbing even without any preparation, and without regard for the impact they are having on the environment."

One area overrun by novice and careless climbers is Mt. Banahaw, says John-Pete Agcaoili, and they have been forced to pay weekly visits there "just to clean up the garbage." But even more damaging to the mountain's fragile environment, they say, are the permanent structures of the various cults. Mt. Banahaw is a protected area, say the mountaineers, so those structures are patently illegal but the local officials are wary of antagonizing the cult leaders.

Watch out for the winning logo which the mountaineers hope will be the centerpiece of a campaign to make responsible mountaineering second nature to anyone who dares set foot on any mountain.

* * *

STILL on the environment, the Caliraya-Lumot Lake Conservation Society (CLCS) kicks off a year-long "Save the Watershed Campaign" with a lakeside concert entitled "Huni ng Gubat (The Forest's Song)." The concert features Joey Ayala, Grace Nono, the Makiling Ensemble and other performers on the banks of Lake Lumot, Cavinti, Laguna at 4 p.m., June 23, Sunday.

The Caliraya-Lumot Watershed is the major source of the Pagsanjan-Lumban River System, which is the biggest contributor to Laguna Lake, which in turn is the largest source of water for communities in Rizal and Metro Manila. Aside from being the major source of fresh water for the NCR, the Caliraya-Lumot Watershed is also the forest reserve of the Caliraya Lake hydroelectric plant.

Through the "Save the Watershed" campaign, organizers say they wish to remind the government of its responsibility to maintain the watershed's ecological balance.

Tickets for the concert will be sold at the gate. Pick-up points for ticket-holders in Metro Manila will be arranged on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, contact Chelo Esplana at 810-9606 to 09, or Chona Rodriguez at 891-1227.

Gracia 'on the mystic road of love'

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

"ONCE upon a time of loss I set out on a mystic road of love."

These 17 syllables theologian John S. Dunne wrote as the opening lyrics of a musical interpretation of Herbert Read's "The Green Child." These words, Dunne says, describe the experience of redefining life after going through the loss of something or someone.

While reading portions of Dunne's book, "The Mystic Road of Love," I could not help but think of American missionary Gracia Burnham, one of the three hostages held for the longest time by the Abu Sayyaf, and the only one who survived the firefight between government soldiers and the bandits two weeks ago. Filipino nurse Edibora Yap and Gracia's husband Martin were killed.

Much has been said about the two remarkable persons who died. Edibora was hailed as a hero and selfless medical worker. To honor her, she was laid to rest on the hospital grounds in Basilan where she worked and where the bandits seized her along with many others. Martin, a missionary pilot, one of those taken from the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan, had his share of eulogies in his native Kansas. One of the American hostages from Dos Palmas, Guillermo Sobero, was beheaded last year. The rest were either released, rescued or had escaped (depends on what story you believe).

This leaves Gracia, 43, the only longest held hostage who survived, with the burden of memory, with the burden of the story crying out to be told. She it is who can tell the world what it was like to be held and pulled around in the jungle for one year and stare death in the face every day. But Christian missionary that she was, Gracia must have also looked into the windows of the souls of her Muslim captors and seen what was going on there, where the cruelty was coming from. She also saw where Edibora's courage was coming from. And Martin's too.

But heavier perhaps than the story she is carrying is the prospect of carrying on without Martin. They had shared a beautiful life together—children and all—most of it in the Philippines. Together they could have died, side by side. But she survived.

Writes Dunne: "When you lose someone who is important to your life, you also lose something, the communion or communication you had, and in the absence, the opening left by loss, your life's road opens up ahead of you with a different prospect than it had, a new prospect. It may be the bleak prospect of loneliness. It may be the prospect of 'a mystic road of love'."

Dunne sees an image of this double prospect in Tolkien's Frodo (remember him in "The Lord of the Rings"?), in Tolkien's poem "The Sea Bell" or "Frodo's Dreme." Frodo sets out on a nightmare of a voyage, into loneliness and desolation. The prospect of a "mystic road of love," as Dunne calls it, appears in Tolkien's trilogy where the story ends with Frodo setting out in the company of friends into the Far West. Dunne explains that both voyages—the nightmare journey of the poem and the night sea journey of the trilogy—are into the Far West, but in one Frodo is alone, in the other he is among friends, with a community.

Says Dunne: "There is a vision of life opening up before you all the way to death in which you are alone, as Heidegger has it in 'Being and Time,' in which you have your own death to die and therefore your own life to live, and there is a vision in which you are unalone, in which 'none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself.'

"Is there a choice between these two alternative visions? That is, can I choose to live in the perspective of love rather than in that of loneliness, or is it more a matter of discovery... Tolkien's Frodo certainly does not choose the loneliness of the poem but it comes upon him against his will. On the other hand, the happy ending of the trilogy, the voyage with friends into the Far West, comes to him as a gift." A gift from Queen Arwen. "When the time comes, and if you then desire it."

Frodo is told, "If your hurts grieve you still and the memory of your burden is heavy, then you may pass into the West, until all your wounds and weariness are healed."

Healing and wholeness can come to the same thing, nevertheless, Dunne says, especially when you are recovering from loss and setting out on a mystic road of love. "To be whole is to love with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might, and that is also the healing of hurts and memory, of wounds and weariness. The prospect of loneliness as in 'The Sea Bell,' is a bad dream, but it arises out of something very real, our emergence and separation as individuals. The prospect of healing and wholeness, on the other hand, comes of realizing our emergence and separation is not the end of the story, of realizing we are called to reunion."

We saw an image of Gracia, hours after her year-long ordeal, joyfully emerging to reach out, putting aside her own loss to immediately embrace the pain of the family of Edibora. Her words to the media and the public were few but one could feel her thanks oozing profusely. She showed the face of joy and hope at a time when the forgiveness was the last thing on everyone's mind.

Gracia was a picture of "emotion recollected in tranquility," to use Wordsworth's poetic formula. By recollecting emotion in tranquility, Dunne says, one goes from restlessness to rest, one comes to repose of heart in God, and that, he believes, is wholeness and healing.

It is a long road ahead for Gracia, but one can sense she has already begun on that "mystic road of love." She will be in the company of friends, in this new, daunting voyage.

The penis monologue

YOUNGBLOOD

Benjo N. Agsimula

*We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.***

I AM Benjo's penis. After all these many years of silence, I have been given a chance to speak up—finally.

I have so many things to say about my life with Benjo. Like him, I have had to deal with many important issues. For instance, I have wondered if my size would pass the "Lab" tests; if Benjo would someday thank me for giving him his first child; and if I truly had any importance in his life.

To make everything clear, let me first describe myself. Based on what Benjo's brain told me, I look okay. I am not too small. If somebody would sneak a peek at me, Benjo would not feel embarrassed or be mocked by his friends or foes. But I am not too big either, so the sight of me would not scare people away. I am perfectly fit and healthy. In a word, I am very much capable of accomplishing my "tasks."

Because of this, I really thought Benjo would like me. But to my surprise, Benjo didn't want me. Instead, he cursed me for being the object between his legs. He said he would have been happier if he didn't have me. Apparently he wanted the other kind.

When I found this out, I was furious. I mean, hey, it's not my fault if I was put in the exact spot where I am now! It wasn't me who gave him a penis. In fact, he should have me around. Other humans made in his likeness have always had something like me. I thought that's how the world works for us guys.

But no, Benjo continued to blame me. He said it's unfair that nobody asked him whether he wanted me as the thing that would define his body.

I was mad at him (and that's an understatement). Am I not able of giving him pleasure and honor now or in the future? Am I ugly or something?

I never understood Benjo and his hatred toward me. I thought I was the source of happiness for him, the keeper of his gems, the guardian of his elixir of love. I thought I was making him proud and satisfied as a male. But all he gave me was hatred. And because of this, I plotted revenge.

One day when he was riding a vehicle humans call jeepneys, I gathered all my strength to attain full erection. Benjo was not ready from my sudden awakening and aggression. So as my muscles started to grow bigger, the tiny hairs pasted on my body were pulled hard.

Benjo was hurting from my actions. He felt so much pain but he was too modest to show how he felt with so many people around. I laughed so hard at him. I had never experienced so much fun.

But my celebration was cut short when I discovered a few things about Benjo that I never knew before. I realized it wasn't me that caused Benjo so many problems. I realized that Benjo was different. He was something quite unlike most of those belonging to his kind. Let me put it this way: I knew Benjo was an extraordinary guy. So despite my anger and resentment toward him, I understood his situation.

Now I feel sad every time Benjo sinks into depression because of some issues that bothers him a lot. When his dad talks about Benjo having a big, happy family someday, he goes ballistic behind his back. Benjo doesn't want to talk about those things, especially with his father. He feels really bad and awkward. I think that thing about having a family just isn't part of his plans for the future.

When other people make fun of him, I really feel insulted. Before, I thought these guys were just trying to make Benjo laugh, but now I realize they are mocking him.

It came as a sudden epiphany. If all these people are making a big joke out of him for what he is, I reasoned, then the joke is also on me since I'm a part of Benjo, a big part of him. So there was an unexpected change of paradigms for me.

I felt the urge to stay by Benjo's side in all his battles. Perhaps this was the true reason I was given to him: to keep him company until the end. It was not all about giving pleasure and honor, but to share the special friendship only a penis can share with a boy.

Now, I fully support Benjo in all his decisions. And he too treats me like his best pal.

I have never doubted Benjo and myself again. I am no longer angry with him. Neither do I feel afraid that he might replace me.

I can say with certainty that our guy-to-penis relationship has never been better. For the first time, I am very happy to be with him. I don't care if someday he would use me to make love to girls, or use me some other way (if you know what I mean). As long as we are both okay, I'll never ask for anything else.

Indeed, I am a happy penis.

Benjo N. Agsimula, 17, is a Communication Arts student at UP Mindanao. He wrote this piece as a requirement for his writing class.

THEY SAID

Expected defection

"My colleagues laughed in the House when they heard that (Sen.) Sonny (Osmeña) had defected to the opposition."

—Rep. Clavel Martinez, saying they expected it from Sen. John Osmeña who they know to be a turncoat

'Martilyo Gang'

"What we have witnessed is not a session but a circus of the 'Martilyo Gang.'"

—House Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales on the session conducted by opposition congressmen where the presiding officer used a hammer instead of a gavel

Productive decision

"Senator (John) Osmeña has been a very productive member of the majority, at least when he was still a part of it."

—Presidential Adviser Gabriel Claudio on accepting the senator into the administration bloc despite his association with deposed President Joseph Estrada

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Quality education requires extreme measures

WE have extremely talented educators and government officials but it only takes one visit to a public school overflowing with children to give one nightmares.

In a national conference of public school principals, one of them confided to me that they didn't have enough books to go around. Every year teachers receive books written by different authors so they cannot even recycle the same over the years to ensure that every child gets one book eventually. When I prodded her to complain, she just gave a smile which spoke eloquently of her frustration and hopelessness.

It is about time we empowered our Department of Education officials and educators to take extreme measures to ensure access to quality education for all Filipinos. Right now they are on the right track, implementing the Basic Education Curriculum (BEC). For sure, this new curriculum was developed by doctoral degree holders in the fields of education. After attending a briefing, I found the curriculum and strategies relevant, practical and timely.

Curriculum evaluations and innovations are continuously going on around the world and we should join the trend.

Singapore patterned their education after the British system (after all, their leaders are British educated). Most schools in Switzerland are using the Montessori system. Japan uses the German method for scientific studies. Some schools in the United States have trimmed down the number of subjects taught to five, using the Core Curriculum theory of E.D. Hirsch.

There is only one thing sad about the newly implemented BEC. Its effectiveness cannot be evaluated after the removal of the NEAT and NSAT.

Though millions of pesos were spent on the NEAT and NSAT programs, they were still the best measurement of elementary and high school graduates' academic achievements. These exams kept my teachers on their toes, trying to give quality education to our students. As long as the results were being used as a guide and benchmark, it was a good strategy to have two assessment instruments to determine which schools were not measuring up to standards. The results encouraged the adoption of remedial measures for the students and teachers.

The low marks in the NSAT for school year 2000-2001 should serve as a wake-up call for the DepEd to strengthen our national curriculum. One model we can use is that of Japan. To ensure that the Japanese people have the best education, their ministry of education pooled the greatest minds and they collaborated, developed and produced their own books to ensure that every single student, whether he was in the city or in the countryside, received the same learning materials, modules and information.

—ARMI JAUCIAN-MARTINEZ, directress, Sunvalley Montessori Foundation Inc., 15 Benedictine St., Sta. Ana Village, Parañaque City

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATIONAL TOBACCO ADMINISTRATION
Scout Reyes Street corner Panay Avenue, Quezon City
Tel. No. 372-3185; Fax No. 373-2095

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The NATIONAL TOBACCO ADMINISTRATION (NTA), through its Prequalification, Bids and Awards Committee (PBAC), hereby invites all interested Health Care Companies, to participate in the public bidding for the provision of Corporate Health Care Services to 646 NTA Officials and Employees.

The pre-qualification requirements are available for issuance to interested Health Care Companies on 20 June 2002, at the Administrative Department, Third Floor, NTA Building, Scout Reyes corner Panay Avenue, Quezon City, Metro Manila. The deadline for the submission of pre-qualification documents shall be at the close of office hours on 26 June 2002.

Pre-qualified Companies shall be notified, thru formal letters. The "General Specification, Instructions to Bidders and Bid Forms" will be issued only to qualified bidders upon the payment of a non-refundable bidding fee of Three Thousand Pesos (Php 3,000.00).

A Pre-bidding Conference will be held on 02 July 2002 at 10:00 a.m., at the NTA Board Room, Second Floor, NTA Building at the above address. The Public Bidding will be held on 08 July 2002 at 10:00 a.m., at the same venue.

The NTA reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part/s. thereof, without offering any reason, waive any defect/s contained in any of the bid/s submitted and/or accept the offer most advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) ATTY. MINDA C. GAPUZ
Chairman
Pre-qualification, Bids and Awards Committee (PBAC)

(PDI – June 20, 2002)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) invites authorized distributors/dealers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Acquisition of the following Equipment for the Use of the Food Development Center:

One (1) Unit - Spectrocolorimeter
One (1) Unit - High Temperature Incubator
One (1) Unit - Water Distilling/Deionizing Apparatus
One (1) Unit - Magnetic Hot Plate Stirrer

The schedule of bidding activities is as follows:

June 21-28, 2002 - Registration/Accreditation of Prospective Bidders
July 8-9, 2002 - Notification of Accredited Bidders and Issuance of Bid Documents
July 11, 2002 (10:00 AM) - Pre-bidding Conference
July 26, 2002 (9:00 - 10:00 AM) - Submission of eligibility requirements and bid proposals
(10:15 AM) - Opening of eligibility requirements and bid proposals

Registration/accreditation and eligibility requirements can be secured from and submitted to BAC Secretariat, ODAFA, 7th Floor, Matimyas Building, 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City. Bidding documents and technical specifications may likewise be secured from BAC Secretariat and the same shall be issued to eligible bidders upon payment of P1,000.00 non-refundable fee.

NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY/INFORMALITY OF THE BIDS RECEIVED AND TO ACCEPT ONLY SUCH BIDS WHICH ARE ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY.

(Sgd.) MICHAEL ANGELO G. PADERANGA
Deputy Administrator & BAC Chairman

(PDI -- June 20 & 27, 2002)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
MAYNILA, PILIPINAS
PREQUALIFICATION, BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) invites interested general building contractors currently with Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) License to apply for pre-qualification and if later found qualified, to bid for the project described below

Project Title : Proposed Construction of Covered Walkway and Pedestrian Gate at BSRO - San Fernando, La Union
Scope of Work : Furnishing of all materials, labor, tools, equipment, technical supervision and other services and performing all operations necessary for the completion of the proposed construction of covered walkway all in accordance with the specifications and subject to the terms and conditions of the contract.
Project Location : BSP - Regional Office San Fernando, La Union
Approved Budget : Pesos Two Million Four Hundred Forty Eight Thousand (P2,448,000.00)
Source of Funding Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Minimum Requirement (Criteria)
PCAB License : At least "C"
Contractor's Construction Experience : Should have completed within the last seven (7) years (1995 to present) at least one (1) project requiring construction of polycarbonate roofing on steel frame with a project area not less than 50 square meters or have completed at least one (1) similar project such as construction of structure like walkways with sheet roofing on steel roof frame and steel or concrete columns or similar building appendages costing not less than P1,200,000.00 escalated to current prices. The contractor's project manager should be a registered architect or civil engineer with at least three (3) years experience in construction particularly with projects of similar nature.
Certification of Satisfactory Performance Should be able to submit notarized affidavits of Satisfactory Performance in the prescribed form to be issued by BSP for the declared completed similar project.
Net Financial Contracting Capacity computed as 10 x (Current Asset less Current Liabilities) minus (Value of all on-going contracts including awarded yet to be started) At least Two Million Four Hundred Forty Eight Thousand Pesos (P2,448,000.00).
Credit Line/Cash Deposit Certificate Req't : Pesos Two Hundred Forty Four Thousand Eight Hundred Pesos (P244,800.00)
Prequalification Statement Forms
Cost of Forms : Two Hundred Pesos per set (P200.00/set)
Date and Time of Issuance June 20 to 28, 2002 / 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 nn & 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Place of Issuance and Submission of Accomplished Prequalification Statement/Documents : PBAC Secretariat Rm. 204 (Tel. No. 524-7011 loc. 3143) 2nd Floor - Five Storey Building BSP Complex A. Mabini corner P. Ocampo (former V. Cruz) Streets, Manila
Deadline of Submission July 1, 2002 / 4:30 p.m.
Notice of Prequalification / Predisqualification
Date and Time of Issuance July 08, 2002 / 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 nn & 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Place of Issuance PBAC Secretariat Rm. 204
Bid/Tender Documents Shall be issued only to prequalified contractors upon payment of the non-refundable cost of the documents
Cost of Documents/Place of Issuance Two Thousand Pesos per set (P2,000.00/set) PBAC Secretariat Rm. 204
Date and Time of Issuance : July 08, 2002 / 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 nn & 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Pre-bid Conference
Date and Time July 11, 2002 / 10:00 a.m.
Venue BMD Conference Room / 2nd Floor - Five Storey Building BSP Complex
Submission and Opening of Bids
Deadline/Venue of Submission July 31, 2002 - 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. / PBAC Secretariat Room 204

Date, Time and Venue of Issuance of Bid Documents, Pre-Bid Conference and Deadline of Submission/Opening of Bids shall be confirmed in the Notice of Prequalification

For inquiries, please call PBAC Secretariat - Telephone No. 524-7011 local 3143

Schedule for issuance of notice of prequalification/predisqualification up to deadline of submission of bids may be subject to change

Guidelines stipulated in the provisions of Executive Order No. 40 & its Implementing Rules and Regulations shall apply relative to the bidding & award of contract while the provisions of PD 1594 & its Implementing Rules and Regulations, as amended shall govern during project implementation

BSP reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts hereof, to waive any defect or formality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any contractor/s whose bid/s is/are evaluated to be most advantageous to BSP. Furthermore, BSP is not obligated to compensate/indemnify the contractor/s for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids nor does it guarantee that an award of contract will be made

(Sgd.) MARCOS J. SIONGCO, JR.
Chairman

(PDI - June 20 & 27, 2002)

LETTERS

They did not have CES eligibility

THIS pertains to the statement made by Belinda Olivares-Cunanan in her column last June 10, in connection with the opposition's replacement of two Senate career officials: Judge Emma Reyes, deputy secretary for legislation, and Peter Paul Pineda, deputy secretary for external affairs.

To set the record straight, Pineda started his career in the Senate on Aug. 17, 1987; while Reyes started on July 1, 1995.

Although their appointments are not co-terminus with those who appointed them, the Civil Service Commission requires a CES eligibility for the holder of a position to enjoy security of tenure.

—RODRIGO-NOEL A. GONZALES, service chief, Human Resources Management Service, Senate, Pasay City

No comment on SC decision

THE FRONT page of the INQUIRER issue of May 30, 2002 featured a news item bylined by Michael Lim Ubac and Rocky Nazareno quoting me as having described the Supreme Court decision in the Kuratong Baleleng cases as "Solomonic" and "a manna from heaven for the accused."

In the INQUIRER issue of the following day, May 31, 2002, Amando Doronila picked up the report in his article titled "No winners or losers" and castigated me for lacking in "prudence and good taste." He said I "should have kept quiet instead of speaking out his opinion on the Supreme Court decision."

I'd like to clarify, firstly, that I never called the Supreme Court decision "Solomonic." In fact, I refused to comment on the decision. Aside from your two reporters, there were others who interviewed me but no other newspaper quoted me as having said "Solomonic."

Secondly, the "manna from heaven" I referred to was not the Supreme Court decision but Section 8, Rule 117 of the Rules of Criminal Procedure, the new rule on provisional dismissals, which took effect in December 2000, more than a year after the cases were provisionally dismissed. My exact words were: "I just dismissed it for lack of probable cause because at that time there was no rule yet on provisional dismissals. Without that rule, there is no question that it could be revived anytime. That was manna from heaven for the accused."

As Doronila was obviously misinformed, I do not blame him for reacting the way he did.

—WENCESLAO I. AGNIR JR., associate justice, Court of Appeals, M.Y. Orosa Street, Ermita, Manila

JUSTICE Agnir clarified that he never called the Supreme Court decision "Solomonic." He said he "refused to comment on the SC decision."

This is both true and untrue.

During our interview with the justice on May 29, he, at first, tried not to comment on the decision. However, due to persistent questions by more than 10 reporters—both from TV and print—he was persuaded to interpret the Supreme Court decision, which we found vague at the time.

We sought his comment on the Supreme Court decision remanding the Kuratong Baleleng cases to the Quezon City court because he was the one who provisionally dismissed the cases in 1999.

So it is not true that he did not comment on the Supreme Court decision. Otherwise, I and the rest of the justice reporters would have had to invent the statements attributed to him in our stories.

I did not directly attribute to him the word "Solomonic." Otherwise, I would have put it in quotation marks. But I believe that was what he meant when he said the decision both favored Lacson and the Department of Justice.

As regards the use of the phrase "manna from heaven," I have my notes to prove that he used the word not only to refer to Section 8, Rule 117 of the Rules of Criminal Procedures.

—MICHAEL LIM UBAC

Slavery, prostitution banned in KSA

THIS refers to the AFP article "Up to 4 million bought and sold in slave trade, says US report" which appeared in the June 7 issue of the INQUIRER.

The article quoted from a US State Department annual report on "Trafficking in Persons" which accused 19 countries, including Saudi Arabia, of not doing enough to combat trafficking wherein victims are transported across international borders and are forced to work in prostitution dens, sweatshops, construction sites and agricultural fields.

I would like to take exception to this report because this phenomenon does not exist in Saudi Arabia. Our immigration laws are very strict. Travelers' documents are double-checked, first in the country of origin through the Saudi mission, and then at the port of entry in Saudi Arabia.

It is worth mentioning here that when the first Islamic state was established in the Arabian peninsula 1,400 years ago, it abolished slavery and made prostitution or adultery for married persons a crime punishable by death. The laws of the Saudi government are based on the Shariah or the Quranic Laws, thus it continues to totally ban slavery and prostitution in its territory.

In fact, it is due to this strict adherence to Shariah laws that Saudi Arabia has been targeted for allegedly curtailing human rights. And the millions of overseas Filipino workers and other nationalities who, at one time or another, have worked in the Kingdom for the last 30 years, are witnesses to the strict enforcement of these laws.

I truly wonder why Saudi Arabia was accused of this crime—this scourge of mankind—which Islam abolished 1,400 years ago.

—SALEH MOH'D AL-GHAMDI, ambassador, Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia

What has Villar against women candidates?

ON JUNE 16, a news item in the INQUIRER quoted Sen. Manny Villar as saying something like "it is not appropriate nor politically correct" to have two women (i.e., President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Sen. Loren Legarda) running for the presidency in 2004.

I would like to ask if he really said this, and if he did, what exactly did he mean. I wonder why the senator thinks that it is not politically correct to have two women candidates for the presidency.

Is the senator sexist after all?

—MCS ABIS, chromecat@hotmail.com

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

'Super Tatay'

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

LAST week, I wrote about psychologist Tess Ujano Batangan's doctoral dissertation on adolescents and their relationships with parents. One of her findings, which I shared in my column, was the fairly weak fathering role.

Many readers wrote in to defend the Pinoy *tatay*, mainly glowing and touching accounts from daughters remembering their fathers and, interestingly enough, grandfathers. Very telling though was that not a single son wrote in to talk about his father. I'll get back to that point later in the article.

There were also several readers who testified to their husbands being superb *tatay*. One reader said she often has to take long trips, including an upcoming one which will mean being out of the country for four months, and never worries about how her husband will fare with taking care of the children.

There were also letters from men themselves, talking about their experiences with child-rearing. Bob Gabuna wrote to say he became a surrogate father to a girl who had lost her own father. His letter reminds us that many Filipinos are able to transcend biological fathering.

Other letters from *tatay* talked about their experiences with child-rearing. Jun Bueno, now living in Calgary, says he's quite happy cooking for his kids. So does someone who calls himself "Super Tatay," a proud father to a four-month-old daughter. Super Tatay says he not only cooks but does the laundry too.

Super Tatay is excited, but apprehensive, about fatherhood. He shares some of his anxieties: Will I answer all of my kid's questions about everything and anything? What happens when someone starts courting my daughter? Will I allow her to date at 15?

Super Tatay hopes Tess will write a book soon about fathering. Knowing Tess and her husband Dennis, I can say they should do the book together. Dennis is a Super Tatay if there ever was one, and still finds time to work as a physician.

But while we're waiting for Tess' book, I did want to venture a few general answers to Super Tatay's questions. I'll qualify that my own experiences in "fathering" have been indirect, always as a temporary substitute, as uncle, as *ninong*, as a teacher (at one time living with 30 adolescents out in the field) and, lately, as a "*tatay-tatayan*" to an infant, oops, I keep forgetting, he's now a toddler aspiring to be a sprinter.

I have to say a father shouldn't have to worry about being able to answer a child's questions about anything and everything. The child, growing up with a good father, believes that Tatay knows everything anyway. Raised well, she'll realize Tatay isn't all-knowing and that her views don't always agree with Tatay's, including those about courtship, but she'll still think her Tatay is one of the greatest men who ever lived.

The point is to be accessible, not just physically and emotionally. Another reader, Fedeliza Espiritu-Lopez, wrote to point out a father's presence, or absence, impacts on both sons and daughters. It's interesting that the women who wrote me about having had good *tatay* also seemed to have married good men who are now exemplary *tatay*.

"Super Tatay" and several other readers blame machismo for the difficulties with fatherhood. Kaye Laforteza notes how we define the male simply in terms of biological fathering, or of being a breadwinner. Small wonder that we elected a philanderer as president, with the reasoning that at least he provides for all his kids and never mind if he has to raid the nation's coffers to do that.

But there's more to the problem of machismo standards than this sowing of wild oats. Earlier in the article I mentioned that not a single male wrote in to talk about his *tatay*. It seems that even if many people, myself included, had very good *tatay*, we don't usually talk about them, except in terms of their achievements. To talk about how nurturing they were would seem to "feminize" them.

It is this perception of parenting that also prevents fathers from sharing their experiences with each other. To do so, Super Tatay observes, is to invite suspicions you're *bakla* (no offense meant, he clarifies quickly). Men don't usually exchange recipes and tips about child-rearing because this is seen as "feminine."

Unfortunately, media reinforce this stereotyping, featuring men only as super-achievers in business and politics. The occasional interviews with fathers emphasize what they do **for**, rather than what they do **with**, their kids. We rarely hear of the nurturing side to fatherhood, yet the fondest memories my readers have are those of Tatay telling stories, of Tatay carrying them on their laps, of Tatay cooking (Len Perez remembers her Tatay's best dish: *ginatang tulingan* with *kamias*). Perhaps we forget, too easily, that the best times we had with our Tatay were the times when we did "nothing," father and child in a quiet time, caring and therefore carefree.

Let me make one last point here. Our "Super Tatay" asked me to use a pseudonym because he was worried that if his wife found out he had written, she might think he was having difficulties with fatherhood. I have this to say: What makes Super Tatay so super is his aspiring to be a great father, and his courage to acknowledge he isn't sure about how to go about it.

It's male pride that makes men drive around in circles rather than stopping to ask for instructions; it's the same problem with fathering. If more men could be like our Super Tatay, pausing to ask, we'd have stronger families and who knows, maybe a stronger nation.

* * *

Write me at tatay@pinoykasi.net

Disgusting disrespect for the presidency

THIS refers to the subheadline last Monday on the lead story that read "Ang Panday to battle Ang Pandak."

This reaction is not meant to condemn but to voice out my disgust and disappointment with the newspaper our office and even our homes have been patronizing for the past years. To point out somebody's imperfection in order to put color in an otherwise simple new item does not speak well of your ideals. We as your readers expect more.

To use such words to paint a picture of our President somehow puts all of us to shame because I personally believe that as a President, she represents each and everyone of us, so I felt so embarrassed, specially because the paper is on the Internet for foreigners to see (imagine them saying, "Is this how they treat their own President?"). Consider, too, the effect on our compatriots around the world.

Don't you believe that the President of our country deserves all the respect due her office from every Filipino?

I believe that every profession, endeavor or business venture should be put in the service of God and man, and profit should just be a reward. It is in the delivery of excellent service that the rewards of profitability are merited.

My views on this article will in no way affect my decision to patronize your paper. Truly, no one is perfect, and I will not let this one incident change my view about your organization's professionalism.

—RAFAEL MARTIN R. DIAZ DE RIVERA, 130 Magallenes Ave., Magallanes Village, Makati City

Filipino Youth, Shining Through

GMA honors Ten Outstanding Students

We salute this year's Ten Outstanding Students of the Philippines (TOSP) who represent this year's most promising doctors, scientists, teachers, agriculturists, engineers, and lawyers committed to the service of the Filipino people.

Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo led the nation in recognizing the Ten Outstanding Students of the Philippines (TOSP) during formal rites at the Malacañan Palace on June 19, 2002. *"This event marks the beginning of your dynamic participation in nation building as one of the country's youth leaders,"* emphasized President Arroyo to the finalists.

Organized by RFM Foundation, Commission on Higher Education, National Bookstore and Rotary Club of Makati Central, this prestigious nationwide search highlights the role and relevance of the youth in shaping the character and destiny of the country.

True to the legacy of excellence that the TOSP has upheld through the years, these promising college graduates who come from various regions have exemplified the pillar principles of the TOSP program – academic excellence, exemplary leadership, determination and willingness to be of service to their fellowmen – anchored on moral values.

Applying what they have learned in school, they initiated projects and undertook activities despite limited resources and academic pressures in response to the realities and needs in their respective communities. Their radiating passion for excellence, leadership and service were affirmed and strengthened during their week together in the hope that amidst their diversity – in profession, belief, culture and values – they will unite around a common purpose and inspire other youth to concretely get involved in nation building.

Finding strength in each other's support, this year's TOSP and their co-finalists are of one conviction that excellence, leadership and social responsibility are a lifelong commitment to be taken together. One in spirit, they will take the lifelong journey of being catalysts of change and agents of hope and in so doing, become the new light shining through in the hope of a better Philippines!

Ten Outstanding Students of the Philippines

Celebrating Life
It is through love that I celebrate life. I find love in every single thing around me. I never hesitate to explore and discover the miracles in everything and in each one everyday. More so, I celebrate life through the One who has given us life... God.

EMMELINE Y. AGLIPAY
De La Salle University
AB Economics
Magna Cum Laude and Valedictorian

Giving One's Self
My experiences with different communities have formed me to become aware of my social responsibility in striving for excellence in the field I get into.

SHERLYN L. DE GUZMAN
Ateneo de Manila University
BS Management Engineering

The Virtues of Science
I have realized that one of the reasons why our country could not pick itself up from the quagmire of poverty is the lack of virtues that come with the study of science– honesty, humility, and temperance.

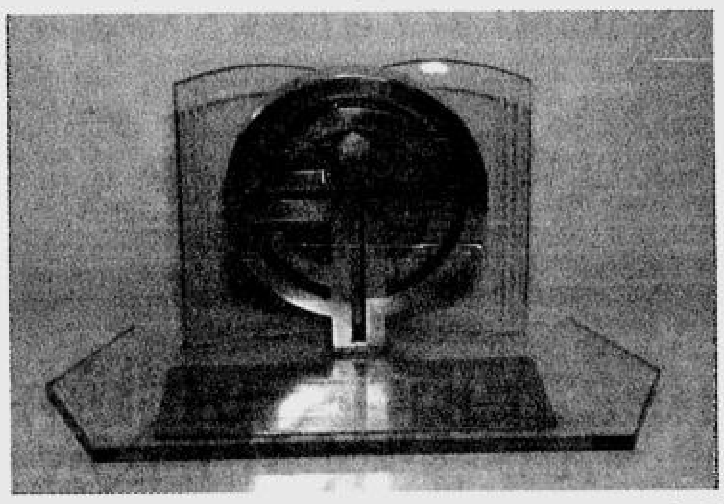
CARLOS ALFONSO Q. SANTOS
UP-Manila
Doctor of Medicine
Cum Laude

Making a Stand
I believe in fighting for one's values and ideals and making a stand against an entrenched system that does not serve its purpose. I can't just accept it and stand quietly when gross injustice takes place just because they happen so often.

DIONNE MARIE M. SANCHEZ
UP-Diliman
BS Business Administration & Accountancy
Summa Cum Laude & Valedictorian

The Seed
Before one hopes to attain bigger dreams, one has to start from the seed of reality that is planted within. I have faith in the potential of people and their ability to cultivate seeds of goodness.

JOHN IVER Z. SOLIDUM III
Colegio San Agustin-Bacolod
BS Nursing
Magna Cum Laude

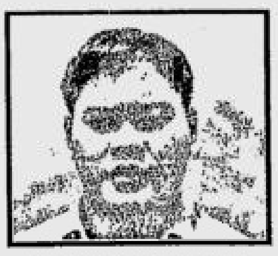


GIZELLE LOU M. CABAHUG
Central Mindanao University
AB Political Science
Summa Cum Laude & Class Valedictorian

Agriculture is the key
Agriculture promotes prosperity and stability when it responds to the needs of the people at the grassroots which then contributes to the stability of the political system

ARLENE M. MAÑEJA
University of Santo Tomas
Bachelor of Laws
Magna Cum Laude

Possibilities
I am a person who believes that it is possible to have it all. It may require an abundance of passion, tons of effort and energy, a healthy dose of stubbornness, and some nudge from the Divine, here and there - but it all boils down to conviction.



JOEMAR L. LOSARIA
John Lacson Colleges-Arevalo
BS Marine Transportation

Service
Living a meaningful and abundant life doesn't mean living a great number of years but spending one's lifetime in the noble service for God, country, and people.

JENNY LIND D. ELMACO
Silliman University
BA Political Science
Magna Cum Laude

Hope
I am already proud that I have done what I can to cause people to smile, to think, to laugh, to believe and to hope for a brighter tomorrow... and to encourage them to do their share in reaching that dream.

RYAN C. GUINARAN
UP - Manila
Doctor of Medicine

Nation-Building
The foundation of nation-building is the character and values of the Filipino people molded by their leaders. I believe in the capacity of the Filipino people to change for the better.

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

UN: Africa's poorest getting poorer

GENEVA—Extreme poverty has been declining in Asia over the past 25 years but has grown steadily in Africa's poorest countries, with nearly 65 percent of the people now living on less than a dollar a day, a UN report said Tuesday.

Asian countries have been able to improve the lot of many of their citizens through economic growth, but the poorest African countries find themselves "caught in an international poverty trap," said the UN Conference on Trade and Development.

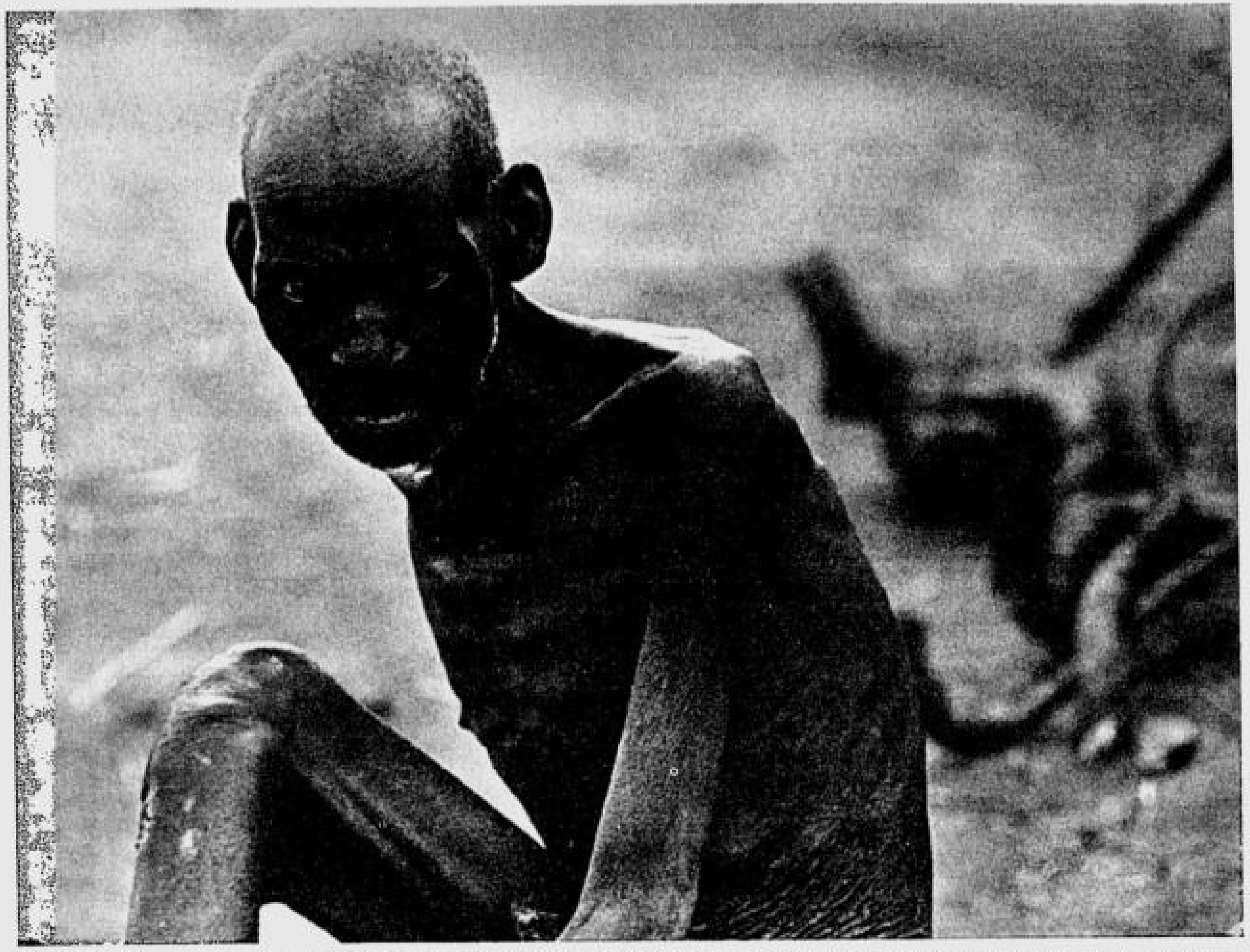
The agency's 285-page Least Developed Countries Report is the most comprehensive study yet of poverty in the world's 49 poorest countries, said UNCTAD Secretary-General Rubens Ricupero.

"We have seen the number of people living on less than one dollar a day in those countries doubling over the last 30 years to reach 307 million people," he said. "The conclusions are extremely worrying."

The agency examined poverty in the poorest countries, adjusting prices to the buying power of a US dollar in 1985.

In the African countries studied, 55.8 percent of the population lived below the line in the 1960s. The percentage grew until it was 64.9 percent in the period 1995-9, the annual study said.

In Asia, however, the percentage dropped from 35.5 percent in the 1965-9 period to 23 percent by the end of the 1990s.



DROUGHT has spawned a severe food crisis in Malawi as depicted in this June 2 photo of farmer Jarson Mphezewa in the village of Lovimbi, some 100 km from the capital Lilongwe. AFP

Congo fares the worst, with 90.5 percent below the line. In Asia, Myanmar, also known as Burma, was much the worst, at 52.3 percent.

Poverty is so widespread in some countries that there is little margin for investment to stimulate the growth that could benefit many of the poorest, Ricupero said.

The study found that even people earning minuscule amounts are often able to save something, but it is so little that the savings can easily be wiped out by disasters or setbacks.

Furthermore, Ricupero said, many of the countries classed by the United Nations as "least developed" rely heavily on the export of commodities whose values have been in a long decline.

"Globalization," which lowers national barriers to trade and investment and makes corporate takeovers easier, "is tightening the international poverty trap" partly because of the way it is has dramatically reduced the number of firms in world commodity markets, the report said.

Harvard economist Jeffrey D. Sachs, a UN adviser on development, said in New York that the report underscores the need for an international partnership on trade and aid.

"Too many of the impoverished countries are stuck in a trap of poverty that they will not get out (of) with their own resources," said Sachs, who will shortly become the director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University. *AP*

Travel chaos in Europe seen during strike

PARIS—Patience, not passports, may prove the most vital requirement for European travelers on Wednesday as air traffic controllers (ATC) prepare for a strike to protest against a plan to unify the continent's airspace.

The ATC action in France, Italy, Portugal, Greece and Hungary is expected to cripple short-haul flights and disrupt services that over-fly those countries. Long distance routes should be less affected, airlines said.

The strike coincides this week with a debate in the European Parliament and transport minister talks in Luxembourg on the so-called "single sky" initiative, which would replace national air zones with new ones based on the busiest air corridors.

The ATC unions say such an initiative would damage national sovereignty and may be the first step toward privatization.

In unrelated disputes, airline and other transport workers in Greece kicked off the strike action on Tuesday in a walkout to oppose government pension reform plans, forcing national airline Olympic Airways to cancel 31 flights, and in Germany construction sector industrial action over wages continued.

Spanish unions have called a general strike for Thursday against planned government labor market reforms, a day before European Union leaders meet for a summit in Seville.

Blank airport departure screens could become a familiar sight this summer as French unions are threatening repeated action unless the EU re-opens public debate over the single sky. *Reuters*

Even in US, 1 in 6 rural kids lives in deep poverty

WASHINGTON—One in six children living in rural regions of the United States is trapped in deep poverty, suffering from poor education and health care, according to a report released on Wednesday.

The report by Save the Children found extreme pockets of rural poverty concentrated in six regions—the Rio Grande area along the US-Mexican border, the Southwest, the mountains of Appalachia, American Indian reservations, the Mississippi River Delta and the Central Valley of California.

In those pockets, child poverty rates were two to three times worse than the national average. In total, the international child welfare organization said some 2.5 million rural children in the United States lived in poverty.

The report defined poverty as an income of $17,601 or less for a family of four versus the US median income of $50,892.

"Unless something is done, we are seeing the emergence of a permanent underclass in rural America," said Save the Children Vice President Terry Russell.

"Those who can get out of these areas do get out, leaving behind those who cannot escape. The death rate for people aged 24 or less in rural counties is 50 percent higher than in urban areas," he said.

Rural children were 50 percent more likely than their urban peers to lack health insurance, and 68 percent of areas designated by the federal government as "health professional shortage areas" were in rural America.

The report described a "Catch 22" situation: families were poor because there were few jobs offering decent wages and benefits. Meanwhile, businesses with good jobs did not locate in rural areas because the communities did not offer a strong, educated work force.

The report said child poverty rates were higher in rural America than in urban areas. Of the nation's 200 consistently poor counties, 195 were rural, and child poverty rates in those jurisdictions often exceeded 35 percent. *Reuters*

Kim's second son grilled

SEOUL—South Korean prosecutors on Wednesday questioned the second son of President Kim Dae-Jung over accusations that he took bribes and laundered money through his father's peace foundation.

Kim Hong-Up, 52, denied the allegations to journalists as he entered the Seoul prosecutors' office but made no other comment.

The second of the president's three sons is accused of receiving at least 1.1 billion won ($895,000) in bribes from businessmen through his friends.

Hong-Up can be held for 48 hours after which prosecutors must decide whether to arrest or release him.

His 38-year-old brother, Kim Hong-Gul, is in jail awaiting trial on charges of bribery, influence peddling and tax evasion.

The second son has denied influence-peddling charges. But Hong-Up's associates have been arrested and charged with accepting money from businessmen, and prosecutors have traced his financial transactions. *AFP*

Aussies conned by telemarketing scams

SYDNEY—Australians have been conned out of hundreds of millions of dollars by telemarketing scams usually based in Asia, the nation's corporate regulator said Wednesday.

The Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) said it knew of 7,300 investors who had been defrauded of at least A400 million ($230 million) by the "cold calling" scams, but the total was probably much higher.

ASIC chairman David Knott said the scammers had become adept at using the internet and moving their operations between countries.

"International investment scams are becoming more sophisticated, both in conning customers and exploiting the difficulties in cross-border law enforcement," he said. "In Australia we have the victims but we don't have the operators."

Knott said once the fraudsters had contacted potential investors through an unsolicited phone call, they went to extraordinary lengths to establish trust.

That included couriering expensive-looking documentation to victims and referring them to supposedly independent offices or web sites that were in on the scheme. They sometimes used the names of reputable companies to try to legitimize themselves.

"Stocks being promoted were listed on web sites run by reputable companies . . . who the callers then suggested had endorsed the stocks," Knott added.

He said the scams were often Asian based but run by people from Europe or the United States.

ASIC's International Cold Calling Investment Scams report, released Wednesday, said more than 80 overseas telemarketing firms had conned Australians since 1999. *AFP*

Files on Mexico's own 'dirty war' opened

MEXICO CITY—President Vicente Fox on Tuesday opened nearly 80 million previously secret files to public scrutiny, an act that could shed light on government dirty tricks, torture and murder of opponents in the past.

"The documentation that the political police generated will never, never, never again be hidden in a basement, its existence denied, and with it the terrible chapters of our recent past," Interior Secretary Santiago Creel said during the ceremony.

The ceremony was held at the old Lecumberri Prison, known as the "Black Palace," where hundreds of political prisoners once were held. It has been renovated and transformed into the National Archive.

The event came a week after Fox signed a freedom of information law requiring all government agencies to provide copies of public documents within 20 days of any citizen's request.

Opening the secret files "is proof that change is occurring, that the transformation that millions of citizens voted for is a reality," said Fox, whose election in July 2000 ended 71 years of single-party rule in Mexico.

As of Wednesday, independent researchers can study files kept on 3 million people. They are believed to range from security probes of bureaucrats and businessmen to reports of interrogations of imprisoned dissidents who vanished in police custody between 1940 to 1984. *AP*

A FIRE crew at the Gallatin Forest watches the Hayman Fire explode near Lake George, Colorado June 18. The blaze, the biggest-ever in the history of the western state, has cost more than $20 million to fight so far and could rage on through the summer, according to the US Forest Service. AFP

Huge Colorado wildfire worsens

LAKE GEORGE—Heat and low humidity propelled an out-of-control wildfire south of Denver to new ground on Tuesday, putting already edgy residents on standby to evacuate.

"We'll use what we've got to do what we can safely," fire information officer Bobby Kitchens said.

But with humidity at single digits and temperatures in the 90s (around 35 degrees Celsius) crews expected to make little headway in the Hayman Fire that grew late Monday and early Tuesday to 45,730 ha (113,000 acres) from 41,700 ha.

A red flag warning was issued on Tuesday, meaning dangerous weather conditions could lead to a rapid or dramatic increase in the wildfire.

"It's potentially very serious. We're asking all the residents to be on alert and pay attention," fire information officer Joe Colwell said.

Some counties use an automatic calling system and residents were told to disconnect systems that block unwanted calls so the "reverse 911" evacuation call from authorities could go through.

Firefighters had the 10-day-old fire 47 percent contained by the weekend, when humidity rose, helping to tame the flames burning about 89 km southwest of Denver. But the blaze blew up again on Monday, sending about 1,000 residents to safer ground. About 6,000 residents remained evacuated.

Colorado, like other Rocky Mountain states, is in the grip of a severe drought, making timber bone dry and vulnerable to lightning strikes or flying embers from fires left unattended.

Large fires are burning in 10 other US states, Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Nevada, New Mexico, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia and Wyoming.

So far this year, 618,696 ha have burned in the United States, compared with 501,959 ha at the same time in 2000, one of the worst fire years on record, according to the National Interagency Fire Center. Last year at this time about 361,828 ha had burned.

It was harder to fight fires after the US Forest Service grounded all five of its remaining C-130 firefighting planes until further notice. One of the air tankers crashed in California on Monday, killing all three onboard.

Pilots of fixed-wing aircraft in Colorado were receiving stress briefings because of the California accident, fire information officer Ron Jablonski said. *Reuters*

Nuke deterrence stopped S. Asia war, says Indian missile expert

NEW DELHI—Nuclear deterrence on both sides prevented India and Pakistan from engaging in an all-out war in recent weeks, Indian president designate and missile expert A. P. J. Abdul Kalam said Wednesday.

Addressing his first press conference a day after filing his nomination papers for India's top job, Kalam said the bristling tension between the arch rivals had not boiled over into war due to the restraining influence of the nuclear weapons both sides possess.

"Nuclear deterrence on both sides helped (them) not to engage in a big war (and) avoid a nuclear exchange," he said.

Kalam, 71, the architect of the country's ballistic missile program, was one of the key figures who planned New Delhi's nuclear tests in May 1998.

"When your neighbor has nuclear weapons you cannot afford to do 'tapas' (sit down with folded hands and pray)," Kalam said.

To a question whether a stronger economy was more important than a potent defense system, Kalam said national security and economy were interrelated.

"While no economy would be secure without a strong defense, strong security will not be possible without strong economy," Kalam said.

Asked about the likelihood of any possible misuse of India's nuclear power and weapons, Kalam said New Delhi had enunciated a nuclear policy that included "no first use" and a moratorium on further tests.

Another principle adopted by India was that of "minimum deterrence"—meaning it should have what it needs and what its adversaries have.

Most Indian political parties, except India's Marxists, have promised support for Kalam, which makes it certain he will be elected president when the incumbent, Kocheril Raman Narayanan, completes his five-year term on July 25.

He will, however, have to face fiery 87-year-old feminist and freedom fighter Lakshmi Sahgal, put up by the Marxists, for the presidential elections scheduled for July 15.

Kalam started his life selling newspapers but later went on to work at India's key defense and space centers.

From 1983 until his retirement last November, he headed India's ambitious Integrated Guided Missile Development Program to develop an array of weapons, including short, medium and ballistic missiles. **AFP**

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Morocco arrests senior al-Qaida agent, 13 others

WASHINGTON—Moroccan authorities have arrested a senior al-Qaida recruiter known as "The Bear" who is suspected of plotting attacks against Western interests in Morocco, US officials say.

Another 13 people suspected of plotting to attack targets in Saudi Arabia were detained there, Saudi authorities said Tuesday. The 11 Saudis, an Iraqi and a Sudanese man planned to shoot down a US military plane taking off from a Saudi air base, the government said through the official Saudi Press Agency.

US officials speaking on condition of anonymity, said Abu Zubair al-Haili, who was arrested in Morocco early last week is considered among the top 25 al-Qaida lieutenant of Osama bin Laden.

Before Sept. 11, Al-Haili ran some of Bin Laden's training camps in Afghanistan. During the US-led war against the Taliban and al-Qaida, he helped evacuate al-Qaida operatives from the country, officials said.

It was not clear when the Saudi, who weighs more than 135 kg earning him the knickname "The Bear," came to Morocco, officials said.

Al-Haili was a close associate of Abu Zubaydah, the senior al-Qaida operations chief whom US authorities captured in Pakistan in March.

Like Abu Zubaydah, al-Haili was central to al-Qaida's international recruiting network, accepting recruits into training and placing them in overseas cells, officials said.

Al-Haili has not been tied to specific past al-Qaida terrorist operations, but officials said his knowledge of al-Qaida operations and terrorist cells would be useful to interrogators.

US authorities are believed to have access to whatever information al-Haili is providing his interrogators.

His arrest is the latest in a series of breaks in the US war on terrorism, both in Morocco and elsewhere. **AP**

Dreaded phone calls a routine at White House

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush reached for the ringing phone at 5 a.m., a respectable hour for national security adviser Condoleezza Rice to rouse him with news that no longer shocks: 20 dead in Jerusalem. It was the 67th Palestinian suicide bombing since he took office.

Through an ad hoc "phone tree" originating in the White House Situation Room, where a newswire report of an explosion in Jerusalem was first picked up around 1 a.m., aides decided to let the president, as well as Rice, sleep Tuesday. There was, after all, nothing they could do. The deploring condemnations could wait until daylight.

"The sad fact is, after so many of these, as horrible as they are, the 10th and the 20th and the 30th just don't have the same emotional impact as the first," said White House Press Secretary Ari Fleischer.

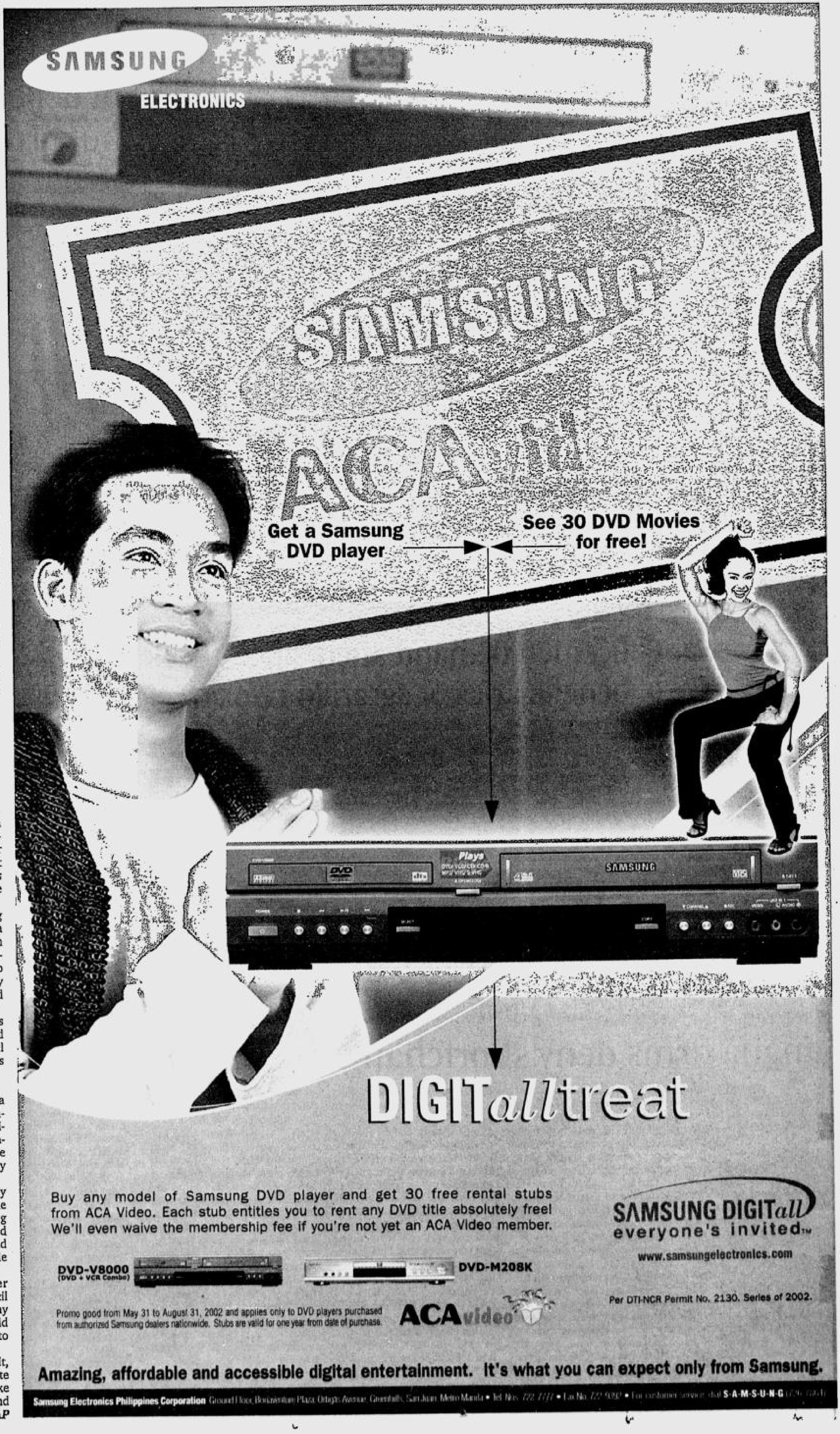
"It's repeat horror."

Tuesday's nail-studded explosion on a Jerusalem bus crowded with high school students and office workers was the deadliest suicide bombing in that city in six years. In Washington, however, it set in motion a White House information operation that was wholly routine.

A half-dozen Pentagon, national security and intelligence personnel were on duty in the Situation Room, a vault in the West Wing basement, when Israeli Radio confirmed around 1:30 a.m. that the explosion reported a half-hour earlier was the work of a suicide bomber.

The "Sit Room's" senior watch officer placed a call to the National Security Council director in charge of the Middle East to relay the news and ask the usual questions: Should Rice be notified immediately? Do you want to call her yourself, or should I?

The director said he would take care of it, after checking with US embassy and consulate officials on the ground in Israel. He awoke Rice's deputy, Steven Hadley, at 4:20 a.m. and they agreed to call Rice then. **AP**



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Erap linked to group attacking Chavit

VIGAN CITY—The estranged wife of a leader of the group that filed five graft and plunder cases against former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson claimed that her husband had been receiving money from ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Sanny Pat Segismundo, in a signed news release, alleged that her husband, Nestor Segismundo, president of the Save Ilocos Sur Alliance, had been receiving "financial recompense from the Erap camp."

She said she revealed this information in her "apparent disgust" over the Sisa president's accusations of graft and other irregularities against Singson.

Singson earlier claimed that Sisa is being supported and financed by politicians who want to discredit him.

He claimed that they had traced documents and information linking Estrada and his supporters to Sisa.

When contacted by the INQUIRER on Tuesday, Singson, who will soon take the witness stand in the ongoing trial against Estrada at the Sandiganbayan, declined to comment on Mrs. Segismundo's statements.

Nestor Segismundo dismissed the accusations of his estranged wife as "pure hogwash."

"My wife and I have been estranged for the past six years. The fact is I am not even aware that she is still alive. I have not seen her ever since she abandoned me for another man," Segismundo told the INQUIRER.

"On her claim that she's disgusted over my supposed acceptance of money from Estrada, I dare her to meet me and tell me the circumstances on how she was able to know about it," he said.

Segismundo said his estranged wife was accusing him of accepting money from the Estrada camp "when she might not even know my present waistline, how many pants I have, the brand of watch I wear, how many dead nails I have."

These are "ordinary things wives should know," he said.

"She does not know because she left me for another man six years ago. So all her statements are pure hogwash," he said.

He said his group has not received anything from the Estrada camp or from any political leader.

In a statement, Mrs. Segismundo said her husband had acted against Singson "because of money."

The statement quoted unidentified sources as saying Nestor Segismundo himself indirectly admitted that his Sisa group has been receiving money for its "demolition job" against the former governor.

The statement said Nestor admitted this during a recent radio interview when he was confronted with information on fund transfers made under his name.

It also quoted unidentified people in Ilocos Sur as saying the group of Sisa will go to Manila because "precisely what they have been after from the very start is to catch the attention of people outside of their province."

A common sentiment among Singson's provincemates, the statement said, is that "Sisa's avowals of corruption by Singson have always been for external consumption as hardly anyone listens to them in Ilocos Sur." ***Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Education exec defies Roco on relief order

MATI, Davao Oriental—A ranking Department of Education official in Davao Oriental said Secretary Raul Roco's order for his relief had violated the election ban on the transfer or reassignment of civil service employees from May 31 to July 31 because of the July 15 barangay and youth elections.

Juan Taloma, schools division superintendent, said because of the prohibition, he was defying Roco's order, which relieved him effective May 30.

Taloma, who was sacked for his alleged involvement in a syndicate selling teaching positions, said he only received the order on June 3.

"It may be pointed out that said (relief) order was sent to the office through fax on June 3, 2002, which falls within the period of election ban," he said.

Taloma said even if Roco insists that the order was signed before the effectivity of election ban, it could still not be implemented because of another document.

"Paragraph 5.7, Section 5, Chapter VII, page 166 of DECS Service Manual 2000 provides that no detail or reassignments shall be made within three months before any election unless with the permission of the Commission on Elections," he said.

Taloma's defiance has caused confusion in the DepEd office here as Roco has already appointed his successor Reynaldo Angelitud.

Angelitud was former assistant schools division superintendent of Sarangani province.

"We are so confused here. We do not know anymore whom to follow. Mr. Taloma claimed that he is still the schools division superintendent and he ordered us to follow all his orders despite the fact that Secretary Roco has already designated a new DepEd chief here," Lillian Calicdan, OIC assistant schools division superintendent, said.

Calicdan said DepEd officials and employees had to follow Taloma because he threatened to sue them for insubordination. ***Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

BING GONZALES

SCOUT SALUTE

Girl Scouts render the salute while singing the national anthem during the celebration in Davao City of the country's 104th Independence Day.

Policemen demand attendance check of beneficiaries of agrarian reform

MAGALANG, Pampanga—Tension gripped the 60-hectare Tinio estate here on Monday when policemen demanded an "attendance check" on 12 farmers who have possessed and occupied the land on orders of the agrarian court last May.

The farmers, supported by more than 50 members of the Kilusan ng Demokratikong Masang Malaya, secured the estate, blocked the entry of two policemen and rebuffed the demand for an attendance check.

"The list of names would eventually end up in the hands of the landowner and he would sue us again," Loida Rivera, one of the farmers, told a policeman who identified himself only as SPO4 Pascua.

In carrying out the attendance check, Pascua did not present an order from the court or from the Magalang police.

Like his companion, Pascua was not wearing a police uniform and in place of a record book, he carried a piece of cigarette carton.

The policemen backed off after a five-minute talk that ended with the farmers invoking the writ of preliminary mandatory injunction issued by adjudicator Erasmos Cruz of the Department of Agrarian Reform Adjudication Board (Darab) in Pampanga.

The writ restored the rights of the farmers in their "peaceful possession and occupation" of the land, Cruz said in the order. It was issued on May 6 and received by the farmers on May 27.

Rivera said Darab sheriff Victor Sibug had made himself scarce after the order was issued, delaying the possession of the land by the farmers.

Even with the writ that came after two years of agrarian dispute, the farmers and their supporters braced for "various forms of harassment" allegedly by landowner Feliciano Tinio, Rivera said.

Tinio claimed Rivera and her husband Jose, who were lessees of the land, as well as 10 tenants allegedly "forcibly entered" the estate in January 2000 and destroyed the sugarcane crop there, court documents showed.

The farmers had tilled the land since 1992, documents showed.

In the writ, Cruz recognized the legitimacy of the farmers' application to become beneficiaries of the land belatedly covered by the government's Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program. ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Bank assures return of depositors' money, but protests continue

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LUCENA CITY—Officials of the Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. assured irate clients and depositors here on Tuesday that the bank is not running away from responsibility.

This developed as more victims of the biggest bank scandal here continued to surface and joined the organized group of victims in fighting for the return of their money.

An undetermined number of depositors in a local branch of Metrobank here earlier complained of holding empty passbooks after a bank employee allegedly bled their accounts dry.

Estimating their total losses at P80 million, mostly in foreign currency and time deposits, the victims pointed to Mely Chua-Tadiosa as the culprit.

In a statement prepared by Jaz Buñag, Metrobank communications officer, and read by the bank lawyer, Metrobank said, "We are not running away from our responsibility to our depositors. In fact, we have already started paying out claims that we have proved to be valid."

Buñag said the bank is investigating the complaints filed by the depositors allegedly victimized by a former bank employee.

But a depositor, Sarita Chong, expressed concern because her signatures "were faked."

More worried depositors continued to surface after they learned of the scandal through the media.

Angry depositors massed in front of the Metrobank, located at the corner of Magallanes and Enriquez streets, on Tuesday morning and denounced the alleged "divide and rule and delaying tactics" being applied by bank officials to wear out their patience.

"Why would they tell other victims that they would talk to them on Thursday when our group has a scheduled meeting with them for Wednesday," said an irate Josephine Tan, a physician and a trustee of the dollar account of her mother.

A depositor from Sariaya told newsmen that her sick father could suffer another stroke if he learned that the money being sent by her sister from the United States was also taken by Tadiosa.

"That money is supposed to be spent for his health care and for the remaining part of his life," the woman said.

A retired provincial government employee, still visibly shocked, stepped out of the bank almost in tears.

He said he left his passbook to Tadiosa the last time he visited the bank for an update of his account.

"Now they are telling me my passbook was lost. But after I showed them the bank number of my account, the bank records showed that another name is the owner of my account," Maximino Ignacio, resident of Barangay Cotta, this city, told reporters. Yesterday, at least 20 depositors picketed in front of the bank after a dialogue with bank officials bogged down.

Banana firms deny shortchanging farmers

DAVAO CITY—Banana companies in Southern Mindanao have no unpaid dues to agrarian reform beneficiaries who leased their land for banana production since 1988.

Reacting to an INQUIRER article that came out on Monday, Rodney del Rosario, president of the Philippine Banana Growers and Exporters Association (PBGEA), said they have been diligent in remitting the farmers' profit share.

"We do not owe them anything. We did not shortchange them because we have been following the guidelines in the computation of the profit share," Del Rosario told the INQUIRER.

Under RA 6657 or the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law, entities operating lands under lease agreements are mandated to execute a profit-share plan if their sales exceed P5 million per year.

Based on the law, the sharing plan should be 3 percent of gross sales from the production of lands under lease agreement and 1 percent of the gross sales for managerial and supervisory groups.

PBGEA member-companies, according to a farmers' group, have misinterpreted gross sales as the value of bananas based on the farmgate price of P24 per box.

Soledad Reyes, executive director of the Mindanao Farmworkers Development Center (MFDC), said that PBGEA member-companies should have computed the profit share based on the actual market cost of $2.60 per box.

Because of this, she said, PBGEA members owe the farmers billions of pesos in non-computed profit share from 1988 to 1998.

But del Rosario said the PBGEA has been using a guideline for the computation of the profit share, which had been previously approved by the Department of Agrarian Reform and the beneficiaries through their union officers.

"In the definition of the law, gross sales means the annual revenue in the raw or original state of the bananas. We could not compute the profit share from the time it goes out of the packinghouse. You have to also put (in) consideration the processing. For example, plantations pay charges for trucking, arrastre and stevedoring in the wharf," Del Rosario said.

Del Rosario said the PBGEA thought that the short-changing issue had already been resolved when in 1997, the DAR adjudication board (Darab) ruled that the computation of the profit share should be based on the farm gate price.

He said in the past, outsiders, or groups and individuals previously connected banana plantations, have questioned the sharing before the Darab in Southern Mindanao.

"They lost. When they appealed, Darab did not entertain them anymore and ruled that there was no basis for the filing of the case. Darab found that the PBGEA has been complying with the guidelines," Del Rosario said.

He said legitimate beneficiaries have not complained about the way their profit share has been computed.

"(Outsiders) are trying to again resurrect the issue. There are many organizations outside. They represent individuals such as employees who may have been removed for cause. But if you notice, the active farmworkers are not complaining. Most of the accusations come from the outside," he said. ***Allan A. Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Aurora townsfolk decry inaction on poaching

DILASAG, Aurora—Fishery officials have been unable to stop three large boats from allegedly poaching into the municipal waters of this town, despite a petition for immediate action last May by 56 families in Sitio Diapitan here.

In their appeal, the families said the boats have intruded since last year. The owners of the boats have installed numerous *payaos* (a local fish aggregating device) near where the families have set up similar gears within the town's 15-km fishing ground off the coast of Dilasag Bay.

Dilasag, about four hours by bus ride from the capital Baler, is on the northernmost tip of Aurora and faces the Pacific Ocean.

The fisherfolk said each ship, with a labor complement of about 30 workers, employs fine mesh nets to gather fish.

"They installed their *payao* without consent or consultations with our local officials. They regularly use fine mesh (nets) that even small fish and fingerlings are trapped," they added.

Payao, a device imitated from Chinese or Taiwanese fishermen, is communally owned by families in Dilasag. Coconut or *buri* palms attached underneath floaters draw the fish to the *payao*.

According to local fishermen, the poachers also use compressors and dynamite sticks that the government has declared illegal for the harm these have caused on coastal environment and marine resources.

They claimed one of the boats' owners is an Army colonel from Infanta, Quezon.

The Tambuyog Development Center, through consultations in Dilasag, had confirmed the operations of the poachers and their use of harmful fishing methods.

Victoriano San Pedro, chief of the provincial fisheries and aquatic resources office in Aurora, confirmed the operations of the three boats.

He said they still need to validate if the boats were indeed poaching by patrolling and identifying the area where the vessels actually catch fish.

But the town, San Pedro noted, has no patrol boat and that the PFARO has only two law enforcement officers.

He said there was no need to heed the petition since officials of the Barangay Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council in Dilasag opposed the complaint.

According to him, the fisherfolk have been misled into signing the petition that originally promised to provide livelihood projects. The complainants, as well as other BFARMC officials, denied San Pedro's claims. ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Vice mayor tries gag on media on sex raps

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Vice Mayor John Elizaga wanted the media here to keep mum on the sexual harassment charges filed against him by a city councilor's daughter.

In yet another move to draw away the media's attention from the suit filed by Leah Daba against him in April, Elizaga phoned editors of Sun*Star Cagayan de Oro and told them to look for other stories in the city hall.

The executive said there were more important issues in the city government than the charges he was facing.

But the paper did not budge and instead ran an editorial about the conversation.

Sun*Star Cagayan de Oro argued that the sexual harassment charges, which Daba filed, were important since the vice mayor faced a similar suit in the past.

In 1998, Elizaga faced a P6-million suit filed by a former college student who accused him of impregnating her after a series of molestation.

The student, who hailed from Naga, Cebu, stayed with an aunt, who lived near Elizaga's.

She said Elizaga had repeatedly molested her.

But in January 1999, the student mysteriously agreed to a settlement, brokered by Mayor Vicente Emano.

Emano had since denied that money was involved.

The incident appeared to have been forgotten here until Daba surfaced and accused Elizaga of sexual harassment in April.

Daba said that on March 1 last year, Elizaga kissed her on the lips. She was then serving as a staff member of the vice mayor.

She said Emano asked her then to defer the filing of the charges because of the elections.

Emano, Elizaga and Daba's mother, Councilor Annie Daba, belong to the Padayon Pilipino party, which the mayor heads.

Daba said she finally decided to sue Elizaga, after having been inspired by the Supreme Court decision penalizing former city health officer Rico Jacutin for the same offense.

Jacutin was ordered imprisoned on March 6 for sexually harassing nurse-applicant Juliet Yee in 1996.

Meanwhile, the Coalition of Women Against Sexual Harassment (CWASH) decried Elizaga's move to silence the press.

"It is a manifest expression of desperation, bordering on transgression of the public's right to be informed on matters involving public interest. If he cannot bear the heat, then he should resign from office as the coalition has repeatedly demanded," lawyer Beverly Selim-Musni, CWASH president told the INQUIRER. ***Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

GMA hands out P10M in funds amid protests

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo on Monday handed out nearly P10 million worth of assistance and grants for infrastructure and livelihood projects for Western Visayas amid widespread protest actions here.

At the University of San Agustin gymnasium where she spoke in Hiligaynon to thousands of her supporters, the President urged the modernization of agriculture in Iloilo and Western Visayas citing the importance of the region as one of the main suppliers of rice and sugar in the country.

She particularly cited the need to finish the development of the Regional Agro-Industrial Center in Pavia town, Iloilo, which she said could be like the Cavite-Laguna-Batangas-Rizal-Quezon (Calabarzon) growth zone.

She directed Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas III, Cabinet Official for Regional Development (Cord) for Western Visayas, to fast-track the implementation of the project so Iloilo will not only be a main supplier of rice but an agro-industrial center.

The President also attended the 2002 national congress of the Sangguniang Kabataan at the Barcelo Sarabia Manor Hotel. She inducted officers of the SK alumni association and gave awards to outstanding members of the youth federation.

In the joint Regional Development Council and Regional Peace and Order Council meeting, the President received reports on the implementation of development projects funded by foreign development assistance worth P47.6 billion.

But even as the President stressed that "social bias for the poor" was among the thrust of her administration, militant groups hounded her with protests in the places that she visited.

Around 500 members of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan held rallies and pickets at the Iloilo City airport, the University of San Agustin and the Barcelo Sarabia Manor Hotel.

Among the issues raised by the militant groups were the controversial purchased power adjustment and tuition increases.

Truncheon-bearing anti-riot police belonging to the Civil Disturbance Management Unit dispersed a rally of Bayan members near the University of San Agustin, according to Jeffrey Celiz, Bayan chair in Panay. The protesters tried to regroup a block from the school but were again dispersed.

While she attended the SK national congress, hundreds of members of the League of Filipino Students and the youth group Anakbayan were holding a protest action outside the congress venue.

Anti-riot police pushed the protesters to move across the street in front of the hotel where the President's party was billeted.

Jeffrey Celiz, Bayan chair in Panay, condemned the "overkill" handling of protesters.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

source: pagasa

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Hi33° Lo24°
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 23° Lo 17°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 36° Lo 23°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Hi 34° Lo 25°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy with Rains	Hi 33° Lo 24°
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 22°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 33° Lo 25°
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 33° Lo 24°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 26°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 25°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 24°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Armin Adina, PDI Research/06/20/02

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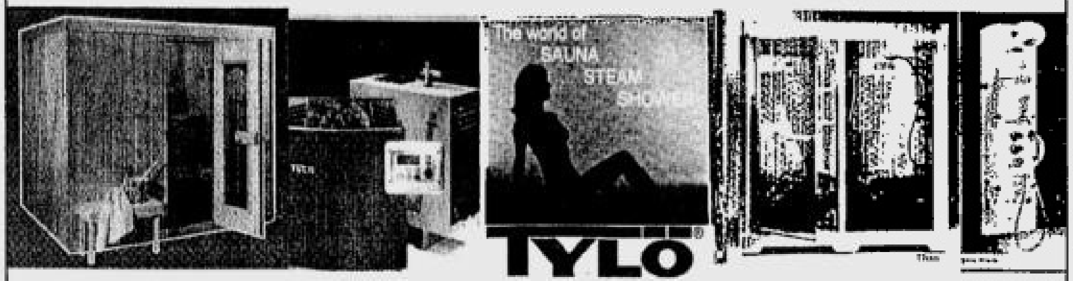

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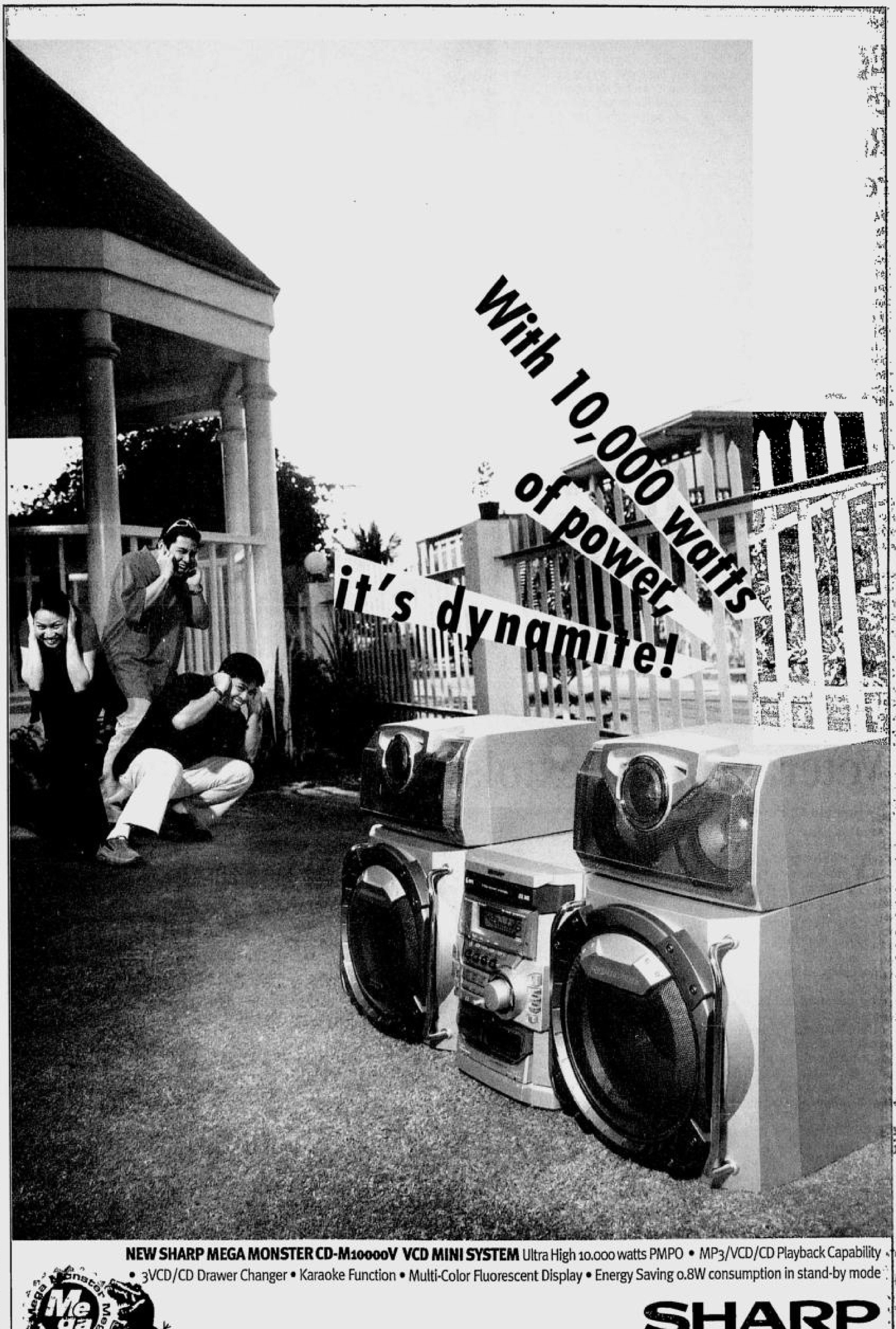

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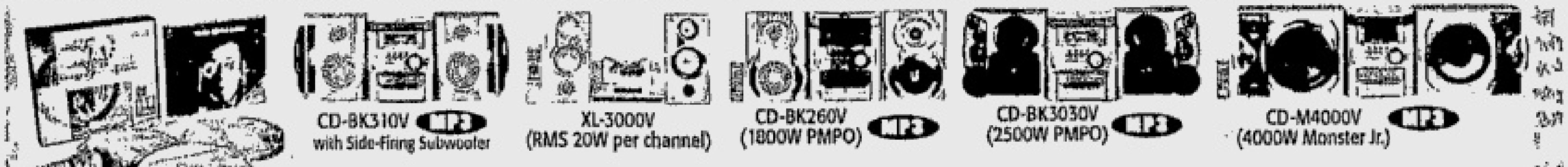

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INQUIRER*Southern Luzon*
Editor **Jun Bandayrel** ◆ *Bureau Chief* **Floreño G. Solmirano**

Saving Mt. Banahaw by strategy

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
Lucena City

THE MEDLEY of stories about the mystical Mount Banahaw explores not only religious cults and environmental destruction but also its being a sanctuary of communist rebels.

It also weaves tales that portray the collective spirit of people and organizations in their efforts to save what is left of the mountain.

Several environmental groups, government officials and individuals have been in the forefront of several "*bahanggunian*" efforts in the past two years. The term comes from the words *bahaginan* (sharing) and *sanggunian* (consulting).

"*Bahanggunian*" serves as a collective sharing of actions and programs for the protection of Banahaw. "The series of '*bahanggunian*' has united all the stakeholders and support groups to work as one and in harmony with each other to preserve and protect what is left of Mt. Banahaw," said lawyer Asis Perez, head of Tanggol Kalikasan-Southern Tagalog.

Perez's group is a public interest environmental legal office based in Lucena City.

Banahaw is situated near the boundary of Laguna and Quezon. It towers 2,158 meters above sea level and has a basal diameter of about 50 km. Around its perimeter are Sariaya, Candelaria, Dolores, Tayabas and Lucban towns in Quezon and Majayjay, Liliw, Nagcarlan and Rizal towns and San Pablo City in Laguna.

The mountain was declared a national park on July 16, 1987 by virtue of Executive Order No. 224 under Republic Act No. 7586 or the National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 1992. But despite the status, much more can be done from the collective perspective of the stakeholders and supporters.

Legislation

During a recent consultation meeting in Marinduque, representatives of non-government groups, government officials from Quezon and Laguna and other concerned individuals shared their views and experiences in their campaign to protect Banahaw.

The result was a proposed congressional act that seeks to establish Banahaw and the nearby Mt. San Cristobal as a national protected landscape and its peripheral buffer zones, encompassing the nine towns and one city of the two provinces nestled at its foot.

The proposed legislation stresses the importance of Mount Banahaw-San Cristobal area as a major watershed in Laguna and Quezon.

The Mt. Banahaw-San Cristobal expanse has a total land area of 11,133.30 hectares. The Laguna side occupies 2,754 has. while the Quezon side has 8,379 has.

Quezon Rep. Rafael Nantes, whose congressional jurisdiction covers Tayabas and Lucban towns, said he would sponsor the bill.

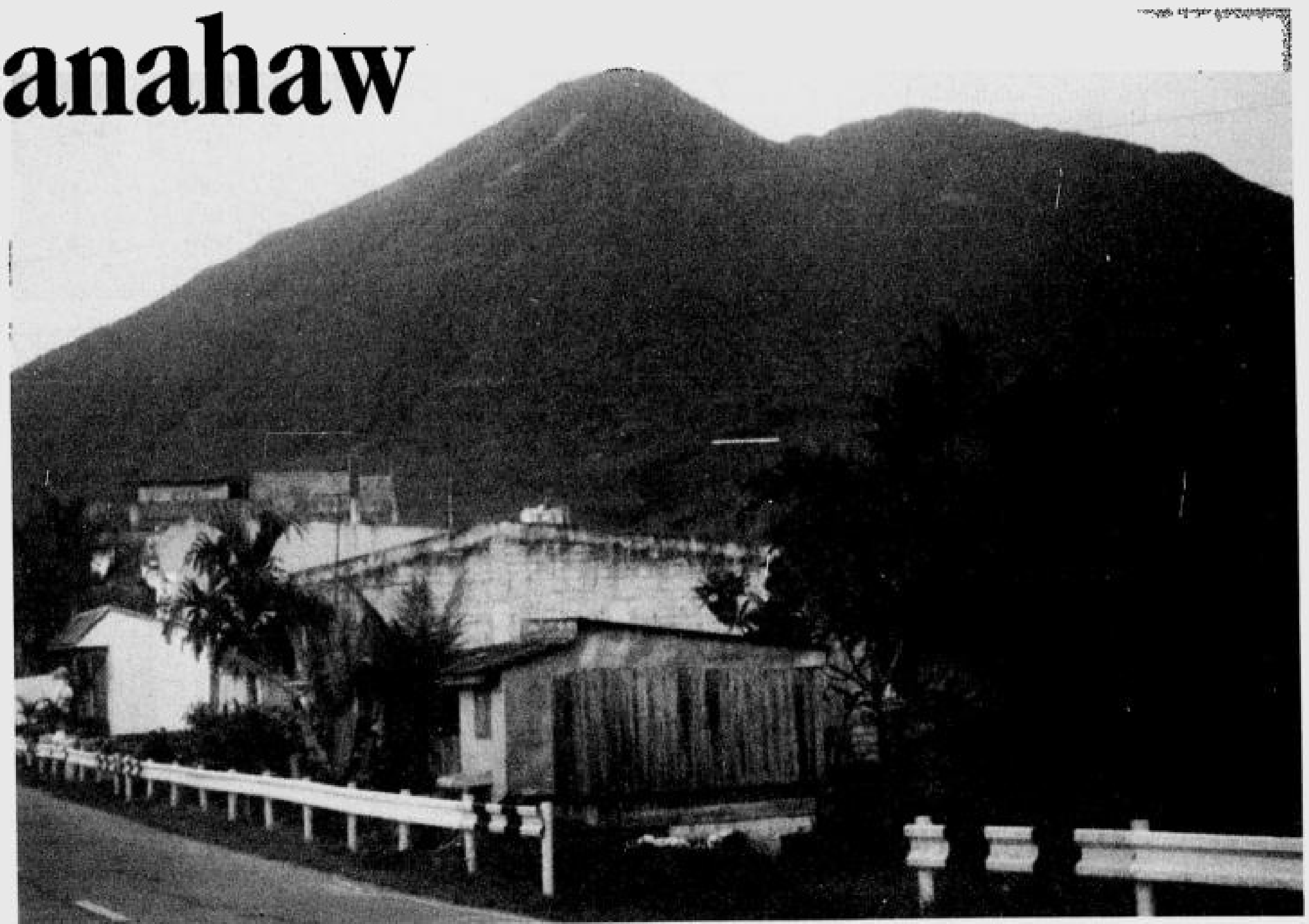
Problems

The proposed act stressed that the "zoning of the protected area shall give primary consideration to the ecological value of the protected area as watershed and secondly to its cultural and religious importance."

In one of the meetings of the Interim Protected Area Management Board (IPAMB) on the Banahaw-San Cristobal last week, the technical working group discussed the problems of timber poaching, garbage dumping, forest fires and the farming methods of the mountain dwellers.

The IPAMB also tackled the construction of structures inside the protected area, mostly by different religious fanatics who have transformed Banahaw into their spiritual haven.

But it discussed the matter with "sensitivity," considering the volatility of the issue.


MT. BANAHAW is the concern of many scientists and environmentalists.
DELFIN MALLARI JR.

"Mt. Banahaw is not only about religious cults and their own individual beliefs of the mountain. There is much more to that. It is about life that thrives in its natural peculiarities, which is now being threatened, save for the courage of those who cherished its once-pristine condition," said Fr. Raul Enriquez.

The priest serves as chair of the Kapatiran at Alyansang Alay sa Kaunlaran ng Bayan or Kaakbay-Quezon.

A native of Sariaya and frequent Banahaw climber, he observed that the presence of different species of wildlife in Banahaw indicates the actual condition of the mountain's ecosystem.

"Their populations are slowly dwindling because of human encroachment," the priest noted.

Bird species

A bio-diversity study, titled "Faunal Diversity of Mt. Banahaw and Implications for Conservation Priorities," which was conducted by ornithologist Neil Aldrin Mallari and marine biologist Arvin Diesmos, revealed the presence of 133 bird species in Mt. Banahaw de Tayabas based on past researches.

It said Banahaw has proven to be a sanctuary of globally important birds of very restricted distributions, which are found nowhere else in the world.

The authors suggested that potential hazards to the fauna be addressed immediately, such as hunting and poaching for pet trade, destruction of native vegetation due to logging, *kaingin* and clear cutting, uncontrollable influx of pilgrims, and quarrying.

Heavy quarrying could be found in Dolores and Sariaya towns.

Dolores started collecting entrance fees from pilgrims and tourists who wanted to enter the mountain during the last Lenten season.

The IPAMB decided that it would be better for Dolores and the interim management board to share the collections. It is also planned to assign fee collectors to other entry points. The money would be used for Banahaw's preservation and protection efforts.

Cecilia Gascon, an environmental scientist from the Southern Luzon Polytechnic College in Lucban, said the mountain is the present concern of many scientists.

She explained that to understand the importance of the mountain, "it should begin with appreciating the abundant resources that it contains."

Public education

To highlight the rising number of endangered species and the continuous destruction of their habitat, the Tanggol Kalikasan, the Lucban-based Sining Pandayan ni Hermano Pule (Sindayan), and the Foundation For Philippine Environment have formed a children's theater group that presents the play, "*Doon po sa Amin sa Bundok Banahaw*." This is part of the information strategy to educate the public.

The story revolves around Punay, a local mountain bird, and how she desperately searches for her child Pipit after a naughty boy disturbed their nest.

In her quest, Punay met Bibot, the mountain rat, and several Banahaw dwellers—animals, trees and every conceivable living thing that make the mountain their natural habitat—all in a desperate situation due to man's destructive practices.

The characters' interaction has been designed to move the audience to action before it is too late, just like the manner Punay runs against all odds in desperate search for Pipit.

The play is interspersed with haunting music loaded with enlightening environmental messages. The theater group uses easy-to-use materials for character identification like foam, prosthetics, puppets, screen silhouette, cloth and fabrics and corrugated board.

Warning

The Luntiang Alyansa sa Bundok Banahaw, a Sariaya-based mountain protection advocates, has also been sponsoring Banahaw exposure trips for media people in Quezon as part of its information and dissemination strategy.

"Media people are the best allies of any environmental protection advocates. Their help in reaching out the public is immeasurable," said Jun Lontok, LABB chair.

Enriquez warned that Banahaw's wildlife could slowly die out, "never to be seen again if no firm parameters and wise policies recognizing the urbanized Filipinos' lack of awareness are adopted and enforced."

Veteran priest extols virtue of obedience to superiors

By Romulo O. Ponte
San Pablo City

AFTER serving various parishes in Laguna and Quezon for 70 years, Fr. Quirino Glodaviza Glorioso has this advice to fellow priests: Be obedient to your superiors.

Father Glorioso, who will turn 100 years old on March 30, said he has lived by this virtue that was imparted to him by three deceased archbishops who had been his superiors.

The first, whose name he could not recall and whom he identified only as a native of Vigan, Ilocos Sur, had said in Filipino, "Father, please be obedient."

The late Archbishop Alfredo Obviar had told him, also in Filipino: "I like a priest who is obedient rather than subservient." Archbishop Alejandro Olalia, who was then very ill, had given the same advice when he visited him in the hospital.

Father Glorioso has also obediently served under Bishop Pedro N. Bantigue (now retired) and Bishop Francisco C. San Diego, now the head of the Diocese of San Pablo.

Almost quit

He said he did not appreciate the virtue of obedience in the past. He left the priesthood for a time, when he could not understand why his superiors kept on re-assigning him to different parishes. That was during the Japanese occupation.

Father Glorioso said he had not been staying long in Mauban, Quezon, his 10th assignment in his first 10 years as a priest, when he received another instruction to report to the Lopez town parish.

Why was his superior assigning him from one poor and remote mountain parish to another, he wondered.

Although determined to serve his flock, he said he just could no longer bear the physical, mental, psychological and spiritual exhaustion that came with the assignments.

FATHER Glorioso
ROMULO PONTE

Frustrated, he left his parish in Lopez and worked in a printing press owned by then Gov. Elpidio Quirino.

"This was where I learned to work for a livelihood," Father Glorioso recalled.

Quirino's wife noticed that her employee was fluent in Spanish, Latin and English. His intelligence amazed her and her husband, who later became the country's President.

Restored

Father Glorioso was unaware that since his unannounced departure from his parish, his bishop, as well as his classmate, Fr. Buddy Coronel, had been looking for him.

When Father Coronel sought out Mrs. Quirino, she reported the young priest's whereabouts. He fetched Father Glorioso and brought him back to the seminary.

"Let us now go back to the seminary rector. Forsake all your defilement now and I will take care of your bishop," Father Coronel had told him.

He returned to the San Jose Seminary and after a week, his bishop called him and restored his right to say Mass. "I got back on my own feet and regained my self-respect."

Fresh from his "escape," Father Glorioso was assigned to the San Pablo Cathedral. He said Masses in the villages.

He became chaplain of an elementary and high school established by the Young Ladies Association and the Canossa School (now a college) and was assigned as parish priest of Cavinti, Laguna on June 29, 1952. This was his first parish assignment in Laguna.

He then became the first Filipino head of the Siniloan town parish after the American Maryknoll fathers pulled out. His next destinations were Pagsanjan, Pakil and Cabuyao.

Alaminos was his last parish assignment. By that time, he was already 80 years old.

Assignments

Father Glorioso was ordained on March 28, 1932 at the Cathedral of Lipa, Batangas. He was briefly assigned as assistant parish priest in the cathedral and requested from time to time to say Mass at Mataas na Kahoy in Batangas.

From Lipa, he was transferred to Atimonan, Quezon as parish administrator.

He became parish priest for the first time on Alabat Island in Quezon and resident priest on Quezon Island, where he met President Manuel L. Quezon and traveled with him. "This was where I really got close to the President," he recalled.

His next leg was the rugged parish of Infanta, Quezon where he took care of equally rugged and remote areas in Baler and Casiguran in Aurora, Quezon.

The young and energetic Father Glorioso was assigned to Mauban as assistant parish priest in 1942 when World War II broke out.

Hometown

He later received a telegram asking him to go back to the Quezon parish. Shortly after, he was moved to Baler and took care of some areas in Infanta and Casiguran.

Back to Mauban again, he got the chance to visit his hometown, Pagbilao, only to witness its bombing by Japanese soldiers and the burning of their house.

"I witnessed how the enemies made firewood out of our personal and sentimental belongings and properties, including my cassocks and theology books," Father Glorioso recalled. "It was good that I was able to hide my paternal aunts, Epifania and Gregoria Glorioso, who were able to escape."

Father Glorioso was born in Pagbilao on March 30, 1903. His mother Eusebia got sick during his infancy and later died. His father Juan remarried and had a son, Victor.

Two aunts raised Father Glorioso and sent him to school until priesthood.

Poor

In 1990, when he was still residing at the old building used by the Diocesan-based Holy Face Sisters beside the San Pablo Cathedral, Father Glorioso told this writer that when he retires, he would have no money.

After 70 years as a priest, he still had no car, unlike these days when newly ordained priests could already own one. He is not complaining though, he said, as he realized that a vehicle nowadays is a necessity for a priest to minister effectively.

He said he believed his seminary professors when they told him: "Don't worry about money. Just work, study and be at peace. God will provide you with everything. If you have really a vocation, continue to work for the salvation of souls."

So, he said, he did not accumulate money from his subsidy. "I just depended on the diocese and the bishop."

Father Glorioso said he has been receiving pension of about P830 monthly from the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines. Thus, even at his old age, he said he has to continue working and saying Mass daily to have money to spend.

It was only during the incumbency of Bishop Francisco C. San Diego that the priest's situation improved. Father Glorioso is now residing at the seminary and being taken care of by the St. Peter's College Seminary fathers headed by Rector Msgr. Jerry Bitoon.

Through the Laguna Clergy Mutual Assistance program, the bishop and priests all over the diocese have designed a system that extends assistance to fellow priests who are either retired or assigned to poor parishes.

More advice

Father Glorioso has more to advice younger priests: "Have money in the bank because when you get old, you will need it. If the bishop or the diocese cannot provide for your life, you will stay and live poor. You will die poor. You may not be able to buy *ataul* (coffin) for your funeral."

During his 99th birthday, the bishop, priests and parishioners of the diocese treated Father Glorioso to a grand birthday celebration at the St. Peter's College Seminary on April 15.

Msgr. Sabino A. Vengco Jr. delivered an impassioned homily during the Mass, centering on Father Glorioso whom he called a "sacrament" of God's manifold blessings to a priest who did not cease dedicating his life to his Lord, even at his old age.

INQUIRER correspondent ***Romulo Ponte*** *serves as the parish priest of Victoria, Laguna and edits the Barangay Weekly, a community paper owned by the Diocese of San Pablo City.*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, June 20, 2002
11th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: *Sir 48:1-14*
Gospel: *Mt 6:7-15*

Jesus said to his disciples, "When you pray, do not use a lot of words, as the pagans do, for they hold that the more they say, the more chance they have of being heard. Do not be like them. Your Father knows what you need, even before you ask him.

This, then, is how you should pray:

Our Father in heaven, holy be your name, your kingdom come
and your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today the kind of bread we need.
Forgive us our debts
just as we have forgiven those who are in debt to us.
Do not bring us to the test but deliver us from the evil one.

forgive yours. If you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive you If you forgive others their wrongs, your Father in heaven will also either."

Commentary

One "Our Father": place our lives before Someone who loves us and whom we love. Search for means to make God known and loved by others. Search constantly for God's will on any issue or situation. To share with God in the responsibility that the daily bread will be on every table of the world, and also that the bread of his Word gives meaning and direction to peoples' lives. Be aware of our limitations and weaknesses in order to make us more understanding, more tolerant and forgiving. Keep in mind that with him we are stronger than any circumstance or evil that tries to prevent us from living our ideals. To see life from these perspectives, that is Christian prayer. The "Our Father" is not a formula to recite but an attitude to keep.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

JUDICIAL ETHICS—Standards of morality and uprightness demanded of a judge—Canon 2 of the Code of Judicial Conduct states that "A judge should avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety in all activities. In amplification, Rule 2.01 provides that "A judge should behave at all times as to promote public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary." Similarly, the Canon of Judicial Ethics provides that "a judge's official conduct should be free from the appearance of impropriety, and but also in his everyday life, should be beyond reproach." Being the visible representation of the law and the embodiment of the people's sense of justice, he must be studiously careful himself to avoid even the slightest infraction of the law, lest it be a demoralizing example to others. Respondent judge's use of physical violence against a colleague reveals a marked lack of judicial temperament and self-restraint, traits not only desirable, but indispensable, for every judge to possess besides the basic equipment of learning in the law. Such behavior puts the judiciary into disrepute. [Citations omitted.][En Banc, Justice Melo, Alumbres v. Caoiles, A. M. No. RTJ-99-1431, January 23, 2002]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

GOING BANANAS

RP-Aussie trade threat grows

AUSTRALIA and the Philippines face a growing dispute over bananas erupting into trade retaliation and a World Trade Organization challenge as a key deadline nears.

Australia's food trade safety group Biosecurity Australia was on track to produce a draft import risk assessment (IRA) on presently banned Philippine bananas, due to health reasons, by around June 30, a spokesperson said on Wednesday.

This would fulfill a deadline insisted on by the Philippines that had threatened WTO action if Australia, which enjoys a A$1 billion a year surplus in total two-way trade, delayed the report.

Increased harmony between the two countries over bananas, in recent years a sufficiently emotive issue to cause street demonstrations in tropical parts of Australia and trade "payback" blockages in the Philippines, seems skin deep.

Senior officials in Manila on Wednesday said the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo would not ban imports of A$370 million ($209 million) a year worth of Australian dairy produce in retaliation for the banana blockage.

But major importers might do so, one said.

If Australia delayed issuing the IRA or if it set unfair conditions the government could mount a WTO action, while private importers could stop importing Australian dairy goods, Agriculture Undersecretary Ernesto Ordoñez said.

"If the deadlines are not met... or (if) the conditions are totally unfair, since this is a free country, they (importers) can choose where to buy products from. We heard some (importers)... are considering shifting from Australian milk to other sources such as New Zealand," he said.

Presidential adviser Luis "Cito" Lorenzo Jr., who also chairs the banana producer Lapanday group, has said in recent months that major milk importers in the Philippines had agreed to switch purchases from Australia to New Zealand and Europe if Australia unfairly blocked imports of Philippine bananas.

Australia's banana industry, a minnow on the world scale producing only 250,000 tons a year compared with the Philippines' 3.5 million tons, this week welcomed indications of improved trade harmony between the Philippines and Australia.

That was before Ordoñez's latest comments. ***Reuters***

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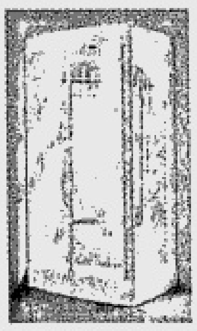

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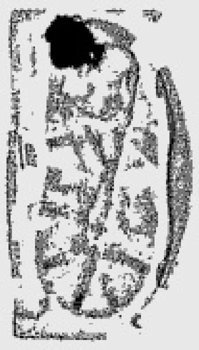

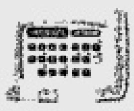

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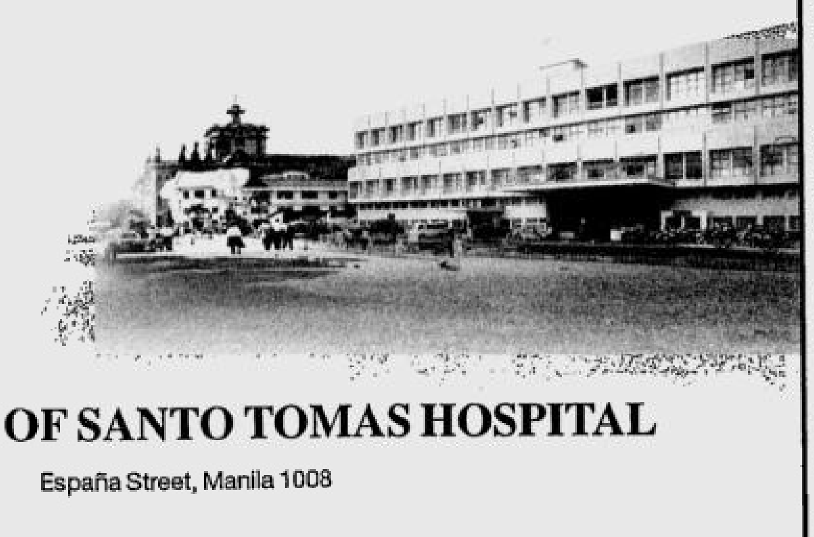

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Cult leader dances as lawmen close in

From page A1

More than 200 policemen and soldiers assigned to arrest Ecleo returned fire. PBMA members responded by firing their machineguns, M-16 and M-14 assault rifles and Ingram automatic pistols. Cult members also hurled grenades at the arresting team.

As the battle raged, six of Ecleo's men known as White Eagle Troopers casually walked toward the PBMA shrine at the foot of the mansion, where the body of cult founder Ecleo Sr. is kept. The six then relentlessly fired at the government forces, according to Olario. The policemen held their ground and eventually killed all six.

Silence engulfed Dinagat more than two hours after the battle. But authorities could not advance to the mansion, which sits atop a hill near the shoreline.

Heavy fighting resumed 30 minutes later, this time involving a team of police officers led by Senior Supt. Admirante Josue, director of the Caraga Regional Mobile Group (RMG), and Chief Insp. Joseph Nohara, Surigao del Norte deputy police director.

PBMA members had tried to clear the back of the mansion in an effort to spirit out Ecleo, according to Insp. Allan Ramos, Olario's aide-de-camp.

Early morning yesterday, 19 cult members were confirmed dead, including Jurevin Padero, a co-accused of Ecleo in the killing of his wife Alona Bacolod in Cebu early this year. Another PBMA member was wounded.

Sniper

The arresting team lost one man, PO3 Roger Morandante, supply officer of the Provincial Police Office. A certain PO1 Montenegro was injured. Morandante was hit in the forehead by a PBMA sniper.

As the dead were being retrieved, Ecleo was nowhere in sight.

At around 5:30 a.m., a platoon of Army soldiers equipped with recoilless, M-16 and M-14 rifles docked at the San Jose port to reinforce the arresting team.

After a briefing with the police regional director, Army soldiers and policemen scaled the hill until they reached the mansion's perimeter. Some of the soldiers encamped at the PBMA shrine.

There was total silence inside the mansion, prompting Olario to suspect the cult members were out to ambush government forces.

It was at about 8 a.m. that Olario received a radio call from the fugitive's mother. Representative Ecleo, speaking from her "White House" in Poblacion, San Jose. She wanted to arrange her son's surrender. Olario agreed and the surrender was set.

A few minutes after Olario spoke with Representative Ecleo, the fugitive cult leader emerged from the mansion.

White cloth

Sporting a blue-and-white shirt, blue pants and blue-and-white Nike shoes, a bald Ecleo came out of the mansion.

He was waving a white cloth and was walking behind two female PBMA members, who were waving white handkerchiefs.

His sister Gwendolyn, a medical doctor and former live-in partner of basketball star Terry Saldaña, and his four children were trailing him.

Upon reaching Olario's position at the PBMA shrine, about 10 meters from the mansion, Ecleo called on his followers to surrender.

Hundreds of men, women and children got out of the building. With their hands held up, they walked toward the open space near the shrine while waving white handkerchiefs.

Police authorities searched them for firearms but found nothing.

After his surrender, Ecleo and his family invited Olario into the mansion where they talked about his safe passage to Camp Crame in Quezon City.

He wanted to be detained at the national police headquarters while his case was being heard in Cebu.

After talking with Olario, the cult leader went down to the shrine and hugged his youngest daughter and his sister Gwendolyn, bidding them farewell.

He then turned to his teary-eyed followers and waved his hand, before boarding his mother's red Frontier pickup.

As the truck passed by, PBMA followers kneeled as if praying to God.

They then rushed to the port to see their "master" boarding the boat for Surigao City. The Ecleo family declined to issue any statement.

Fourteen of Ecleo's aides were arrested following the gun battle.

"Dinagat Island is now peaceful and normal," Olario declared last night.

Ecleo was flown to Manila and presented to the media in Camp Crame last night.

Smirking

Throughout the conference, he was smirking. He will be returned to the courts in Surigao where he is facing charges in connection with his wife's murder.

Olario said 100 policemen remained on the island to conduct mopping-up operations.

Negotiations for Ecleo's surrender fell through because the cult leader feared for his life, said Sen. Robert Barbers, who had several rounds of talks with Ecleo's mother and leaders of the PBMA for his surrender.

"His mother had promised a lot of times that he would surrender but he himself had refused to surrender because of threats to his life," Barbers said, quoting Ecleo.

Director Nestorio Gualberto, head of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, said investigators had not established the mastermind behind the killings of Ecleo's wife's family in Cebu.

"But we have a suspicion that one of the assailants is a member of the PBMA," he said.

Surigao del Norte Gov. Robert Lyndon Barbers said members of the PBMA were engaged in missionary work of treating sick people, but could not say why some of them were armed.

The PBMA has 10 million members worldwide, including professionals, doctors and military officials, the young Barbers said, quoting Ecleo.

"Ninety percent of the island's population belongs to the PBMA. The people look up to him as their divine master," Olario said. ***With reports from TJ Burgonio in Manila and Franklin Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

'They were crawling when suspect finished them off'

From page A1

about a meter from Ben's house at Sitio Pinahagbong, Barangay Subangdaku in Mandaue City.

Their daughter, Evelyn, 32, later died at the government-owned Don Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center.

Another son, Ricky, 23, suffered a minor wound in the head.

A neighbor, Sofronio "Yoyong" Lactawan, who was fetching water nearby, was not spared, not even after he pleaded for his life.

Witnesses said Ben had tried to shield his father.

According to Ricky, his parents and brother were crawling when they were killed.

Police killed the lone gunman, identified as Rico T. Gumulon, after chasing him up to the Makro Department Store at the North Reclamation Area, less than a kilometer from Ben's house and about 200 meters from the police station.

In his pocket was a special ring worn only by members of the Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association Inc. (PBMA), which is headed by Ecleo.

Also recovered from the body were a .45 cal. pistol, an extra magazine for the pistol and two magazines for the Ingram machine pistol.

Ecleo is facing parricide charges for the death of his wife Alona, 27, whose decomposing body was found inside a garbage bag on Jan. 8 in Dalaguete town, 85 kilometers south of here.

Culprit

The Bacolod family had pointed at Ruben as the culprit in the killing. Ben earlier claimed that Ecleo was angry with his sister because of her insistence that her husband be placed in a drug rehabilitation center.

Ben had claimed Ecleo was hooked on methamphetamine hydrochloride (shabu). Ecleo has denied killing his wife and being hooked on illegal drugs.

Police had been trying to arrest Ecleo in his mansion on Dinagat Island in Surigao del Norte. The suspect gave himself up to authorities yesterday after 19 of his supporters were killed in a police assault. ***(See banner story on page A1.)***

At about 9 p.m. on Tuesday, members of the Bacolod family joined Ben, who was sitting in a bench outside his house while waiting for updates on the assault on Ecleo's bastion in Dinagat.

Elpidio, Rosalia and their children, Ricky and Evelyn, were living in a small house about 20 meters from Ben's.

Evacuation

At that time, Ben was busy sending text messages to his contacts in Surigao City where his relatives had evacuated from Dinagat to avoid getting caught in the crossfire between policemen and Ecleo's armed followers.

He also granted interviews to Cebu City-based radio stations on the police operation.

Ricky recalled that the family was worried about the situation on Dinagat. "My father even warned us to stay home," he said, because of a gut feel that something bad would happen.

At that time, Ricky said he had wanted to spend the night in his friend's house on Manalili Street in downtown Cebu City.

Gumulon suddenly approached with an Ingram machine pistol in hand. Ricky even asked him "*Unsa na? Unsa na* (What is that? What is that)?"

Cold-blooded

Without uttering a word, Gumulon began firing at them. Ricky was quick enough to jump over a neighbor's fence and escape. A bullet, however, grazed his head.

But Ricky's parents and siblings were not as lucky. "*Nagkamang pa intawon sila pero gitiwasan sa suspect* (My parents and siblings were still crawling, but the suspect finished them off)," Ricky said.

Ricky said he heard Lactawan pleading to the suspect to spare his life because he was not part of the Bacolod family. His pleas, however, fell on deaf ears as Gumulon pointed his gun at him and shot him dead.

During the assault, the three other Bacolod siblings were in their parents' house. Josebil and his 11-year-old sister were sleeping. But Niño, 24, went out of the house to check on the burst of gunfire.

Ben's wife and their four young children were crying inside his house.

As the gunman escaped toward Makro, Niño went to Ben's house only to find the bodies of his parents and brother sprawled on the ground.

Rosalia was lying two meters from the main door of Ben's house. The bodies of Elpidio and Ben were found about a meter from Rosalia's.

Condemnation

Cebu officials condemned the killings.

"I'm deeply saddened (by) the incident. Respect for the police department has gone down. The Philippine National Police has lost its credibility," said Mayor Tomas Osmeña,

Cebu Gov. Pablo Garcia urged the police to monitor the activities of the PBMA members in the province. He said there were PBMA chapters in Talisay City and the towns of Dalaguete and Bogo.

"I condemn the massacre. The police should be forewarned about these people who seem to be dangerous. They should subject the PBMA followers here to close monitoring of their activities . . . because we do not know their motives, their psychological profile," he said.

Acting City Prosecutor Jose Pedrosa raised the concern that other witnesses in the parricide case against Ecleo might no longer testify following the killing of the Bacolods.

"These people are not relatives or (were in) any way connected to the Bacolods. They came to testify about what they saw and because of what happened they may no longer testify because of fear that their lives would be endangered," Pedrosa said.

Death penalty

But the remaining members of the Bacolod family want the death penalty to be imposed on Ecleo, especially for the killing of their parents and their siblings.

Ricky, Niño and Josebil said Gumulon was ordered by Ecleo to kill them. "Please stop doing this to us," Niño appealed to Ecleo.

Josebil recalled that the gunman was a friend of Ben's and a former bodyguard of Ecleo. He said Gumulon might have even attended Alona's funeral in January.

Niño said Ecleo should pay for what he did. "*Kon unsa may gidangatan sa akong pamilya, labaw pa ang angayang isilot niya* (His punishment should be worse than what happened to my family)," he said.

When they learned yesterday that Ecleo was finally arrested, the Bacolod siblings did not hide their happiness. "*Medyo nakuhakuhaan ang among gibati* (It eased our pain a little)," Niño said.

Security guard

Police said Gumulon, 34, a native of Oroquieta City, had worked as a security guard of Excel Security Agency for five months.

His supervisor, Ignacio Godiñez, said Gumulon asked for permission to go on leave for a week because he wanted to fetch his child from Mindanao. But on Tuesday, Gumulon called up the agency to inform them that he was resigning.

Gumulon was also a former member of the paramilitary Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu), police said.

The Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in Central Visayas (CIDG-7) immediately placed Josebil and the other members of the Bacolod family in its custody.

Police consider Josebil the star witness in the parricide case against Ecleo.

In his sworn statement, Josebil claimed Ecleo was acting strangely on the night of Jan. 5 in the couple's house at Forest Hills Subdivision in Barangay Guadalupe, Cebu City. Josebil was livingwith Alona and Ecleo at the time.

Josebil also claimed hearing noises from inside the couple's room that night. Later, he said he saw his brother-in-law and Padero placing a garbage bag into the trunk of Ecleo's car.

The next day, the Bacolod family could not find Alona. ***With a report from Jolene Bolambot, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Murder in the family

From page A1

against Ecleo Jr., while murder charges are filed against Padero and four other unidentified persons for alleged involvement in the killing of Bacolod-Ecleo.

Jan. 22—Chief Supt. Alberto Olario of Caraga says Ecleo Jr. would be placed under police custody. They would also institute measures to avoid violence with the loyal members of the PBMA who refuse to hand over their master.

Feb. 10—Police investigators say they are also looking into the P7-million insurance policy of Bacolod-Ecleo with Sun Life of Canada as a motive for her slaying.

Feb. 24—In his counter-affidavit, Ecleo Jr. denies any role in the murder of his wife. He says that "he loves his wife very much."

April 24—Cebu Regional Trial Court Judge Galicano Arriesgado issues warrants for the arrest of Ecleo Jr. and his bodyguard Padero for murder. No bail was recommended for the accused.

April 26—Sen. Robert Barbers says he would convince his political ally Surigao del Norte Rep. Glenda Ecleo to surrender her son.

May 21—Ecleo Jr. allegedly flees Dinagat Island to prevent bloodshed, according to his mother's statement.

May 24—Thousands of cultists belonging to the PBMA gather at the house of Ecleo Jr. to prevent police from serving the warrant for his arrest.

May 25—A team of 30 policemen fails to serve the warrant of arrest to Ecleo Jr. Congresswoman Ecleo tells police her son has left the island to prevent violence. She invites the police into her house to feast on a lunch of lechon.

June 14—Agents of the CIDG from Cebu who came to Dinagat to arrest Ecleo Jr. say they are pulling out of the island because of lack of cooperation from the Caraga police authorities. ***Compiled by Chona Galang and Armin Adina, PDI Research Department***

Ecleo: Divine to his followers, criminal to others

From page A1

come a time the island would be in chaos, that the police and military, used by the Ecleos' political enemies, would come and kill our loved ones," said Jose de Guzman, Dinagat SK Federation president.

Criminal

He has a dark side. "He is nothing divine. He is an ordinary criminal, who can afford to kill his own wife because he is already deep into drugs and has gone crazy," Benjamin Bacolod told the INQUIRER a week before he was killed along with his parents in Mandaue City Tuesday evening.

A former PBMA member turned policewoman, who grew up in San Jose town, accused Ecleo Jr. of raping her elder sister's young daughter. She said the victim was in fact the cult leader's half sister.

"Ruben's father got my sister Marife pregnant right after she finished high school and she gave birth to twins. They are supposedly Ruben Jr.'s half-sisters but he raped the elder twin, Barbara and got her pregnant. Only a crazy person can do that," PO1 Lyndee Oliveros said.

All Ecleo Jr. had wanted was to be a rock musician.

In December 1987, he was scheduled to leave for Hong Kong to join a band, but his father died of a heart attack.

Being the eldest in a brood of eight, he succeeded his father in the PBMA. The succession rites were attended by all chapter members worldwide during their annual conference.

Ecleo Jr. belongs to a family of politicians. His mother Glenda is a veteran politician having been a congresswoman representing Surigao del Norte's first district from 1987 to 1995. In the May 2001 elections, she ran again and won.

His father was mayor of Dinagat, one of the seven towns on the island of the same name, for 24 consecutive years starting in 1963. Ecleo Jr. himself was mayor of San Jose town while two of his brothers served as mayors in two other towns in Dinagat Island.

The PBMA Inc. was registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission as a non-profit association on Oct. 19, 1965.

It was formed to "revitalize the nucleus of universal brotherhood of all peoples in the world, without distinction and discrimination as to creed, faith, ideology, social and intellectual limitations."

It claims to be a non-stock, nonsectarian association of brotherhood that carries out charity works and projects.

3M members

Police said recently that the cult had more than three million members and 400 chapters nationwide. But on its website, the PBMA claims that it now has 3.5 million members in the Philippines alone and maintains 281 chapters all over the country and 23 international chapters.

The PBMA denies that it is a religious cult. It maintains that it does not interfere with the religious beliefs of its members, but rather, urges them to strengthen their relations with their respective faiths.

But its reference to its founder as "Divine Master" has contributed to the tag that it is a religious cult. In addition, there were news reports that branded it as an anti-communist organization.

Structured as a corporation, the PBMA operates with a board of directors and a set of officers. It is headed by a supreme president who PBMA members refer to as "master."

Officials are chosen to oversee the operations of provincial and international chapters. Sub-associations are also established. Professionals are organized into the Professionals League and women into the Women's League. It also has a New's Youth Organization.

The PBMA's central headquarters is in San Jose town on Dinagat Island, which is more than an hour's boat ride from Surigao City.

San Jose used to be a barangay. In 1989, Ecleo Jr. was its barangay captain. But through the efforts of his mother, the barangay became a municipality. As a neophyte representative, his mother authored a bill which became a law (RA 6769) on Nov. 15, 1989, converting the barangay into a municipality. EcleoJr., being the barangay captain, became mayor.

Noah's Ark

The town of San Jose, along with the rest of the island of Dinagat, is a modern-day Noah's Ark to the thousands of members of the PBMA, according to the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism.

From various parts of the country, members trek there for spiritual salvation, giving up property and abandoning their roots. They believe that the end of the world will come in the year 2015, said the PCIJ report. San Jose is their promised land, and whoever will be there at the appointed time will not perish but will be "saved." One man led them all there—and his body lies in the cavernous building on the hill. The building is Ecleo Sr.'s mausoleum.

Nearby are the PBMA conference center, a circular stadium, a miniature dam, a lagoon, the PBMA office and the mansion of the Divine Master, perched on the hilltop.

To become a PBMA member one must pass a screening committee headed by their missionaries.

A potential member is subjected to a series of background checks and is asked to confess all his sins and vices. He is also asked to stop indulging "in earthly things."

Members are promised that all the wealth on Dinagat Island will be theirs when the time comes.

PBMA leaders circulated surveys allegedly conducted recently by a team from the United Nations revealing that the island had one of the world's richest mineral deposits. Because of this, many join the PBMA.

As "supremo" or "master," Ecleo Jr. is venerated by more than three million members across the globe, according to the PBMA.

Members say that they will even offer their daughters to Ecleo Jr. and defend him at all cost.

Although he was not able to leave for abroad to join a band, Ecleo Jr. had managed to hone his skills as a guitarist.

He was the main guitar player of a group composed of his brothers Allan Uno and Allan Dos.

In most of PBMA conventions, he would play difficult pieces such as the fast-switching riffs of Swedish guitarist Yngwie Malmsteen and Japanese guitar virtuoso Takanaka. ***With reports from Armin Adina and Michael R. Cucio, PDI Research***

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2 senators slam IMF for meddling on PPA

By C. D. Balana and A. N. Nocum

TWO senators yesterday slammed the International Monetary Fund for interfering in the purchased power adjustment issue bedeviling the Philippine power industry and Filipino consumers at present.

At the same time, influential Archbishop Oscar Cruz of the Lingayen-Dagupan archdiocese scored the PPA for being "manifestly atrocious."

Even churches, convents and the residents of priests have been greatly affected by the increase in power rates caused by the PPA, Cruz said.

As for the IMF, "They do not know what they are talking about and they have no right to interfere," said Senate President Pro Tempore Manuel Villar.

Villar was reacting to a recent IMF statement that said it had advised the government against bringing down electric rates by lowering the PPA.

"It is not they who are burdened by high power costs. They do not understand the situation here," Villar said from Amsterdam where he is attending an international conference.

Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta said the IMF was virtually arm-twisting the Macapagal administration into abandoning its plans to bring down electricity charges.

"The IMF's contention that the Philippines must pursue a delicate balancing act on the PPA issue is a squeeze job in disguise," Oreta said.

Meralco, the principal distributor of electricity in the country, reacted yesterday to recent news reports it continues to overcharge customers and had gone ahead in the construction of another IPP despite knowledge that there was an oversupply of electricity.

In a press statement, the power firm belied the claim of National Transmission Co. president Asisclo Gonzaga that although Meralco knew about the oversupply of electricity, "it continued to construct the San Lorenzo" plant of First Gas, a Lopez-controlled firm like Meralco.

San Lorenzo is due to go into commercial operation soon.

Jesus Francisco, Meralco president, said the natural gas plants of First Gas (Sta. Rita and San Lorenzo) were constructed after Energy Secretary Francisco Viray asked Meralco in 1995 to assume the 1,500 Mw, or 50 percent, output of the Camago-Malampaya natural gas field.

Francisco also belied another report that quoted National Power Corp. president Roland Quilala as saying Napocor could lower the rate it charges Meralco by P1.38 per kWh if Meralco were to get its entire electricity supply from Napocor.

These are the latest in a "propaganda blitz," using Mr. Gonzaga's terminology, aimed at Meralco, Francisco said.

"It is unfortunate that these articles are appearing when both Meralco and Napocor are talking in earnest about a contract that would define the relationship between the two parties," Francisco said.

Cops get pay hike this July

LOWEST-RANKED policemen will receive a monthly gross pay of P12,155 starting next month.

Outgoing Philippine National Police Director General Leandro R. Mendoza announced this yesterday as he authorized the full implementation of the new PNP salary structure as of July 1.

Under the new pay scheme, a Police Officer 1, lowest-ranked among uniformed personnel, will receive a gross pay 12 percent higher than last year's. Inspectors, lowest-ranked among commissioned officers, will receive a monthly gross pay of P22,133.70.

Deputy Director General Reynaldo V. Velasco, PNP director for comptrollership, said support funds for the salary increases were already in place. He said this was one of Mendoza's last "gifts" for the 113,000-strong police force before assuming his post as Department of Transportation and Communications chief.

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ORIGIN: MANILA

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES			
						NORMAL	VALUE	PROMOTIONAL	2-DAY ADVANCE
CEBU	5J - 557	Daily	DC9	0130	0240	P2,899	P2,569	P1,999	P1,949
	5J - 559	Daily	DC9	0500	0610			-	
	5J - 561	Daily	DC9	0700	0810			-	
	5J - 563	Daily	DC9	0900	1010			-	
	5J - 565	Daily	DC9	1100	1210			-	
	5J - 567	Daily	DC9	1300	1410			-	
	5J - 569	Daily	DC9	1500	1610			-	
	5J - 571	Daily	DC9	1700	1810			-	
DAVAO	5J - 961	Daily	DC9	0500	0640	P3,667	P3,239	P2,699	P2,349
	5J - 963	**Daily**	**B757***	**0930**	**1110**	P4,039	P3,839	P3,667	-
	5J - 965	Daily	DC9	1320	1500	P3,667	P3,239	-	P2,349
	5J - 967	Daily	DC9	1600	1740			-	
CAGAYAN de ORO	5J - 381	Daily	DC9	0510	0635	P3,645	P3,239	-	P2,349
	5J - 383	Daily	DC9	0930	1055			-	
TACLOBAN	5J - 651	Daily	DC9	0610	0720	P2,899	P2,569	-	P1,999
	5J - 655	Daily	DC9	1210	1320			-	
	5J - 657	Daily	DC9	1410	1520			-	
ILOILO	5J - 451	Daily	DC9	0500	0600	P2,779	P2,449	P1,859	P1,699
	5J - 455	Daily	DC9	0955	1055			-	
	5J - 459	Daily	DC9	1600	1700			-	
BACOLOD	5J - 473	Daily	DC9	0510	0610	P2,779	P2,449	-	P1,799
	5J - 475	Daily	DC9	1000	1100			-	
	5J - 479	Daily	DC9	1650	1750			-	
ZAMBOANGA	5J - 851	Daily	DC9	0620	0750	P3,667	P3,239	P2,179	-
ROXAS	5J - 373	Daily	DC9	0530	0630	P2,539	P2,199	-	P1,799
DUMAGUETE	5J - 627	Daily	DC9	1340	1450	P2,899	P2,569	-	P1,999
KALIBO	5J - 339	Daily	DC9	0900	0950	P2,899	P2,569	-	P1,999
BUTUAN	5J - 787	Daily	DC9	1030	1155	P3,645	P3,239	-	P2,349

*Cebu Class Available

ORIGIN: CEBU

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES			
						NORMAL	VALUE	PROMOTIONAL	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 558	Daily	DC9	0500	0610	P2,899	P2,569	P1,999	P1,949
	5J - 560	Daily	DC9	0700	0810			-	
	5J - 562	Daily	DC9	0900	1010			-	
	5J - 564	Daily	DC9	1100	1210			-	
	5J - 566	Daily	DC9	1300	1410			-	
	5J - 568	Daily	DC9	1500	1610			-	
	5J - 570	Daily	DC9	1700	1810			-	
	5J - 572	Daily	DC9	1900	2010			P1,999	
DAVAO	5J - 593	Daily	DC9	0800	0850	P2,589	P2,249	P1,945	P1,649
	5J - 597	Daily	DC9	1450	1540				
ZAMBOANGA	5J - 431	Fri/Sun	DC9	1005	1100	P2,649	P2,319	-	P1,969
	5J - 433	M/ W/Th/ Sat	DC9	1100	1155				
ILOILO	5J - 164	Daily	DC9	1750	1825	P2,099	P1,759	P1,495	P1,249
BACOLOD	5J - 126	Daily	DC9	0810	0840	P1,879	P1,539	P1,295	P 999
CLARK	5J - 588	Tu/F/Sun	DC9	1100	1220	P2,995	P2,669	-	P2,199

ORIGIN: DAVAO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES			
						NORMAL	VALUE	PROMOTIONAL	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 962	Daily	DC9	0720	0900	P3,667	P3,239	-	P2,349
	5J - 964	**Daily**	**B757***	**1210**	**1350**	P4,039	P3,839	P3,667	-
	5J - 966	Daily	DC9	1540	1720	P3,667	P3,239	-	-
	5J - 968	Daily	DC9	1820	2000			P2,699	P2,349
CEBU	5J - 594	Daily	DC9	0930	1020	P2,589	P2,249	P1,945	P1,649
	5J - 598	Daily	DC9	1620	1710				
ILOILO –via Cebu	5J - 598/164	Daily	DC9	1620	1825	P3,645	P3,195	P2,595	P2,199
ZAMBOANGA	5J - 393	M/T/W/Th/Sat	DC9	1010	1110	P2,649	P2,319	-	P2,049

*Cebu Class Available

ORIGIN: BACOLOD

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES			
						NORMAL	VALUE	PROMOTIONAL	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 474	Daily	DC9	0930	1030	P2,779	P2,449	-	P1,799
	5J - 476	Daily	DC9	1150	1250				
	5J - 480	Daily	DC9	1840	1940				
CEBU	5J - 125	Daily	DC9	0700	0730	P1,879	P1,539	P1,295	P 999

ORIGIN: BUTUAN

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
						NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 788	Daily	DC9	1235	1400	P3,645	P3,239	P2,349

ORIGIN: ILOILO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES			
						NORMAL	VALUE	PROMOTIONAL	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 456	Daily	DC9	1135	1235	P2,779	P2,449	-	P1,699
	5J - 460	Daily	DC9	1740	1840			-	
	5J - 462	Daily	DC9	1905	2005			P1,859	
CEBU	5J - 161	Daily	DC9	0640	0715	P2,099	P1,759	P1,495	P1,249
DAVAO –via Cebu	5J - 161/593	Daily	DC9	0640	0850	P3,645	P3,195	P2,595	P2,199

ORIGIN: TACLOBAN

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
						NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 652	Daily	DC9	0800	0910	P2,899	P2,569	P1,999
	5J - 656	Daily	DC9	1400	1510			
	5J - 658	Daily	DC9	1600	1710			

ORIGIN: CLARK

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
						NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE
CEBU	5J - 589	Tu/F/Sun	DC9	1300	1420	P2,995	P2,669	P2,199

ORIGIN: ZAMBOANGA

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES			
						NORMAL	VALUE	PROMOTIONAL	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 852	Daily	DC9	1150	1320	P3,667	P3,239	P2,179	-
CEBU	5J - 432	Fri/ Sun	DC9	0830	0925	P2,649	P2,319	-	P1,969
	5J - 434	M/W/Th/Sat	DC9	1235	1330			-	
DAVAO	5J - 394	M/T/W/Th/Sat	DC9	0830	0930	P2,649	P2,319		P2,049

ORIGIN: CAGAYAN DE ORO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
						NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 382	Daily	DC9	0715	0840	P3,645	P3,239	P2,349
	5J - 384	Daily	DC9	1135	1300			

ORIGIN: ROXAS

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
						NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 374	Daily	DC9	0710	0810	P2,539	P2,199	P1,799

ORIGIN: DUMAGUETE

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
						NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 628	Daily	DC9	1530	1640	P2,899	P2,569	P1,999

ORIGIN: KALIBO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
						NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 340	Daily	DC9	1030	1120	P2,899	P2,569	P1,999

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS

FROM	TO	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA
MANILA	HONGKONG	5J - 110	Daily	B757	0700	0900
		5J - 118	Daily	B757	1640	1840
HONG KONG	MANILA	5J - 111	Daily	B757	1000	1200
		5J - 119	Daily	B757	1940	2140
MANILA	SEOUL	5J - 194	M/F/Sun	B757	1340	1840
		5J - 1944	Th	B757	1340	1840
SEOUL	MANILA	5J - 195	M/F/Sun	B757	1950	2250
		5J - 1955	Th	B757	1950	2250

NOTES:

- *All tickets are REFUNDABLE, REROUTABLE and UPGRADABLE to valid higher fare types. All issued tickets are NON-TRANSFERRABLE.*
- *Insurance surcharge of P250 per sector is applicable to all fare types.*
- *Child's fare and other regular discounts are applicable to Normal Fares only.*
- *All fares are subject to government approval and are exclusive of government tax.*
- *All fares and schedules are subject to change without prior notice.*
- *2-Day Advance Purchase fares are subject to CAB approval and may change without prior notice.*
- *Cebu Promotional Value Fare valid on MNL/CEB 5J 557, 559 and CEB/MNL 5J 558, 572 only.*
- *Iloilo Promotional Value Fare valid on MNL/ILO 5J 451 and ILO/MNL 5J 462 only.*
- *Davao Promotional Value Fare valid on MNL/DVO 5J 961 and DVO/MNL 5J 968 only.*

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Ateneo outlasts Blu, a game away from PBL crown

GAME TOMORROW *(Makati Coliseum)*
4 p.m.—Blu vs. Ateneo-Hapee-Negros Navigation

By Dennis U. Eroa

ATENEO-Hapee-Negros Navigation displayed remarkable poise in a pressure-packed situation last night as it turned back Blu Sun Power, 92-86, in two overtimes at the Pasig Sports Center.

The win moved the Blue Eagles to within a game of snatching the PBL Chairman's Cup title.

Young Turk Larry Fonacier again delivered the killing blows as Ateneo survived Blu's last-ditch rally, putting the Eagles to a historic first crown under a coach (Joel Banal) piloting the glamor UAAP team for the first time.

The 6-foot-3 Fonacier, whose hot hands lifted the Blue Eagles to a 76-73 triumph in Game 1 of the best-of-five championship series on Monday, exploded with five points, including a triple, 88-83, 46 seconds remaining.

Enrico Villanueva, virtually unstoppable in the shaded lane, pumped in 34 points and his one-handed slam in the dying seconds typified the Blue Eagles' blistering, if not authoritative, finish.

"We were there fighting till the end," said Banal. "We knew it was going to be a grind."

Game 3 is tomorrow at 5 p.m. with the Blue Eagles gunning for a sweep and the Detergent Kings needing to win three straight to to salvage the crown.

Earlier, Kutitap drubbed ICTSI-La Salle, 77-61, to win the battle for third.

This marked the second time this year that Ateneo battled Blu in two overtimes. Blu won, 91-88, in the eliminations.

ATENEO 92—Villanueva 34, Alvarez 17, Cruz 13, Fonacier 11, Domingo 8, Chia 5, Valdez 4, Gonzales 0, A. Cruz 0, Anicete 0.

BLU 86—Codamon 19, Legaspi 17, Dimaunahan 15, Calo 11, Gatumbato 9, De la Cuesta 7, Latoreno 6, Mendez 2, Santos 0, Gottenbos 0.

Quarterscores: 16-16; 27-32; 52-50; 67-67; 74-74; 92-86.

Taiwan defeats UST 5

NATIONAL University of Taipei leaned on a 10-0 run in overtime to turn the tables on University of Santo Tomas, 89-81, yesterday in the Spring Cooking Oil-third Asian University Basketball Championship at the Rizal Coliseum.

A barreling drive by Lee Chin Ilsun and free throws from Au Yang chin Hsun in the last two minutes made all the difference for the Taiwanese, who went on to notch their only win in three matches.

It came a day after St. Francis clobbered the Taiwanese quintet, 84-63, to keep up with Yonsei University of Korea for the lead.

Al Vergara banged in 22 points while Lyndon Abian fired 12 for the Doves, who have the same 3-0 win-loss card with the Koreans.

Fans, in their 20s, die after Korea nips Italy

Sokors become only Asians gaining Final 8

SEOUL—Millions of South Koreans were recovering on Wednesday from a wild night of celebrations after the national team beat Italy to reach the quarterfinals of the World Cup for the first time.

Two fans, healthy men in their twenties, died after succumbing to heart attacks during Tuesday's riveting match in Taejon. One collapsed when South Korea equalized two minutes from the end of regulation time, police said.

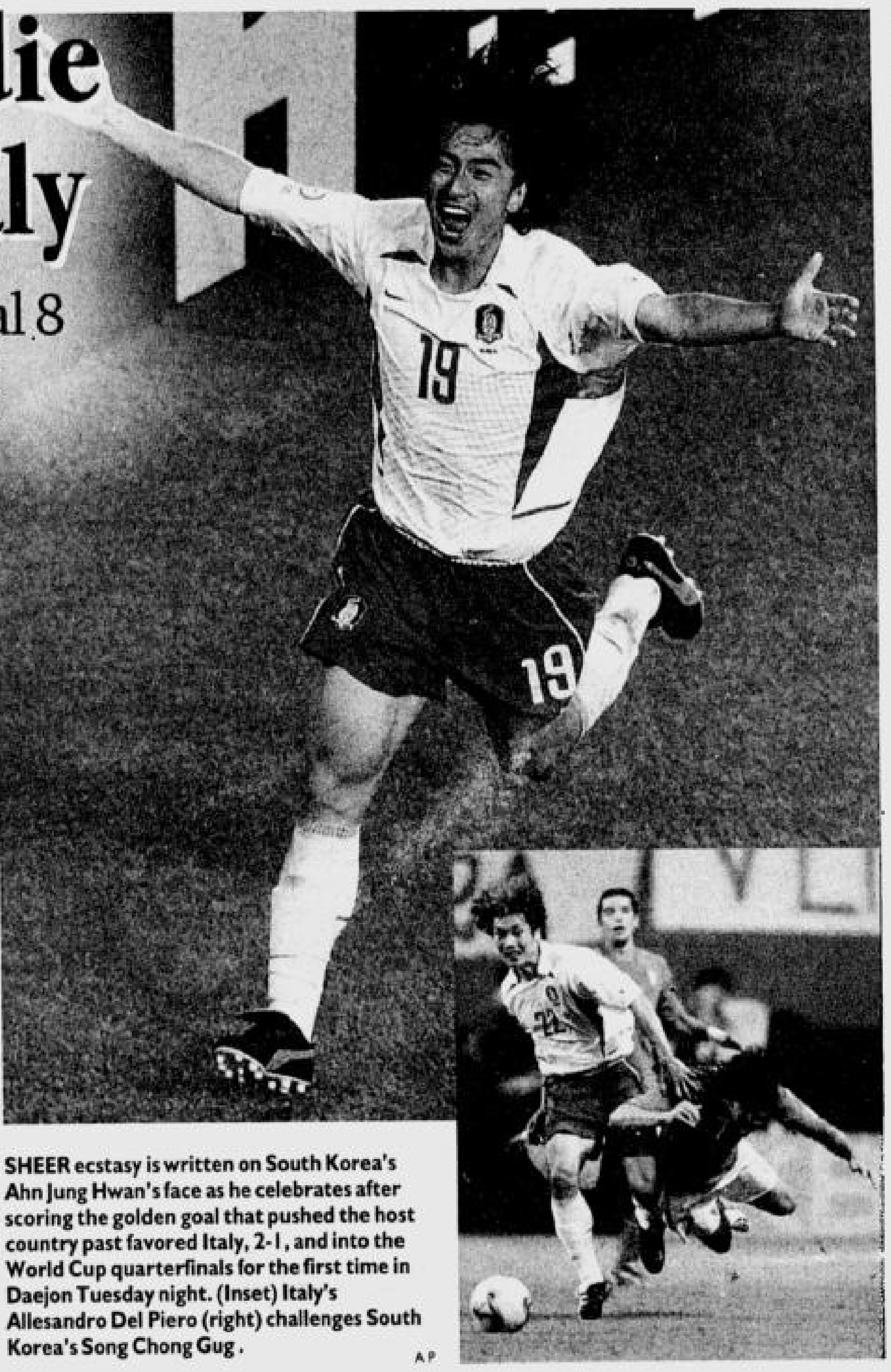
Four million people — one in every 12 of South Korea's 48 million — watched the showdown with Italy on giant television screens but there were few incidents in the street parties triggered by the 2-1 win.

South Korean media, full-on supporters of the only Asian team to reach the final eight after fellow hosts Japan fell to Turkey, reached deep into their store of superlatives after a dramatic golden goal clinched victory for the home side.

"Veni, vidi, vici," read a headline from the Chosun Ilbo, "Warriors have finally crossed the Rubicon and entered Rome."

"The players have moved a mountain," the daily added.

"Hiddink troops have surprised the world and created new history," said the Chosun Ilbo newspaper, praising the role of Dutch coach Guus Hiddink who is close to being a national hero. *Reuters*



SHEER ecstasy is written on South Korea's Ahn Jung Hwan's face as he celebrates after scoring the golden goal that pushed the host country past favored Italy, 2-1, and into the World Cup quarterfinals for the first time in Daejon Tuesday night. (Inset) Italy's Allesandro Del Piero (right) challenges South Korea's Song Chong Gug. AP

Drama, trauma

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

HISTORICALLY, football is replete with drama. And trauma. Fans don't just get hurt. Some die. As of last count, four have died—two from Russia, the other two from Korea. The deaths from Russia were triggered by rioting. Heart attacks did the Koreans in.

Presently, the World Cup toast is South Korea, the No. 32 seed which ousted No. 8 Italy (2-1) on Tuesday. Before Korea was Senegal, which upset Sweden (2-1) to also make the quarterfinals beginning tomorrow.

Virtually all of mankind adores the game, except us. I am not surprised. We seem to be always different. Or, we love to be different. For, unlike other countries where they spill blood to bring about change in their governments, over here, we kick out our leaders without bloodshed.

If that's not unique, what is?

■

My *Pareng* Louie Visorde will celebrate tomorrow and, for sure, the occasion will afford us the chance once more to reminisce on the good times.

I always enjoy *Pareng* Louie's company, especially so if spent at Villa Leandro, that famous, state-of-the-art resort located along the national highway in Sariaya, Quezon.

Happy birthday, *Pareng* Louie.

■

I will miss Rudy Navarro's hard-hitting column at Tempo. Rudy, who died on Monday after a heart failure, was one guy who would defend a side he had taken even at the risk of losing his job. So few are like him that's why he belonged to an endangered specie.

Rudy revered to high heavens any debt of gratitude. When he learned that I personally recommended him to become Tempo's sports editor in 1982, he took pains to see me personally to shake my hand in gratitude. I was then a Tempo columnist and that paper's interim sports editor when I recommended him to Recah Trinidad, then Tempo editor. I was Recah's choice for the position, with backing from then Tempo No. 2 Ding Marcelo, but I politely declined it. I was already an INQUIRER man when Rudy learned about it. Rudy wasted no time to come to me personally and say his "thank you."

Goodbye, my friend. I will miss you, my dear *kabaleyan*.

From shocks to earthquake?

YOKOHAMA, Japan— The succession of shocks that have sent tremors rippling through soccer's established order at the World Cup may turn into an earthquake when the tournament enters its closing stages on Friday.

The quarter-finals may start with a traditional classic — England v Brazil — but any search for the tournament's epicenter should look in the direction of the four rank outsiders defying all odds to stay in contention for sport's greatest prize.

If soccer's earth moves, how will it be for South Korea, Senegal, Turkey and the United States, all so unaccustomed to the dizzy heights to which they have soared?

As the so-called lesser lights of world football continue to cut swathes through the tournament, the unthinkable — can one of them actually win it? — is starting to germinate in the mind as something other than a wild fantasy. *Reuters*

Players blame referee

TAEJON, South Korea—Italy's players angrily blamed Ecuadorian referee Byron Moreno for their golden goal defeat to South Korea which saw them knocked out of the World Cup on Tuesday.

Ahn Jung-hwan's header in the 116th minute eliminated the Italians who had earlier led through a Christian Vieri header.

The Italians, who had four goals disallowed in their last two group games, were angered by the ruling out for offside of a Damiano Tommasi goal in extra time and by the sending off of Francesco Totti, who picked up a second yellow card after he was ruled to have dived.

Italy captain Paolo Maldini, making what was probably his final appearance for his country said: "It is possible to make mistakes, in previous games there were mistakes, but today the referee went too far. *Reuters*

Davao claims 2nd win at Casino's expense

GAMES TOMORROW *(Mindanao Polytechnic)*
3:30 p.m.—Davao vs Cebu
6:00 p.m.—Negros vs Cagayan

DAVAO CITY—The Professional Davao Eagles are soaring in the MBA National Conference with two straight victories. And most of the credit should go to high-flying rookies Billy Mamaril and Jon Dan Salvador.

The 6-foot-6 Mamaril and 6-foot-4/½ Salvador have shown marked improvement in the Eagles' 76-65 conquest of the Cebuana Lhuillier Gems Sunday night and their 97-87 triumph over the Casino Cagayan de Oro Amigos Tuesday night.

Against the Gems, Mamaril and Salvador combined for 24 points and 34 rebounds at the Davao Oriental Sports and Cultural Center in Mati, Davao. Against the Amigos they were good for 27 points and 24 rebounds at the Rizal Memorial Colleges here.

Throw in Glenn Peter Yap, Mike Manigo and Cid White and coach Bong Go have a tall, potent crew that would be difficult to match in the Southern Conference and even in the entire eight-team field.

The Eagles, behind White and Mamaril, greeted the fourth quarter with a 13-2 blast to take an 84-68 spread from which the Amigos couldn't recover.

White wound up with 22 points, while Mamaril added 15 points and 12 rebounds for the Eagles, who also posted a commanding 63-49 edge in rebounds.

Glenn Peter Yap chipped in 15 points while Salvador added 12 on top of 12 rebounds in a balanced show of firepower by the Eagles, who handed the Amigos their second straight defeat.

Former NCAA MVP Ernani Epondulan topscored for the Amigos with 19 points, followed by Roel Buenaventura with 14.

The game was tight up to the third quarter, 71-66, before White and Mamaril found their range.

The Eagles seek a repeat over the Gems at 3:30 p.m. tomorrow when action shifts to the Mindanao Polytechnic Gym. The Amigos will try to recover when they meet the RCPI Negros Slashers at 6 p.m. *Roy Luarca*

Scores:

DAVAO 97—White 22, Mamaril 15, Yap 15, Salvador 12, Concha 8, Montalbo 7, Sasuman 5, Simon 4, Manigo 4, Marata 3, Callao 2, Menor 0.

CAGAYAN DE ORO—87—Epondulan 19, Buenaventura 14, Sanz 13, Calimag 12, Naron 9, Capus 7, Manucat 6, Reyes 4, Gumatay 2, Lopez 1, Alabanza 0, Bughao 0.

Quarters: 26-23, 48-39, 71-66, 97-87

Tuason race classes June 30

RACING enthusiasts can get a real hands-on circuit racing course as the Tuason Racing School continues its series of racing classes on June 30 at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Barangay Maligaya, Rosario, Batangas.

The Tuason Racing Team Oxygen, headed by former Karter of the Year JP Tuason and wife Jeanette, will conduct the second part of the "Introduction to Racing Course" in the event sponsored by Oxygen, Standard Insurance, Bridgestone, Batangas Racing Circuit, Blue Moon, Paintworks, Magic 89.9, Honda Cars Caloocan and Drive Concept Wheels.

JP and Jeanette Tuason have undergone training and conducted a research on different racing schools and facilities in the US and Europe, including Skip Barber Racing School, Jim Russel, Richard Petty Nascar Experience and the Andretti Speed Lab.

Students will have a hands-on use of their six race-prepared cars for circuit racing, aside from extensive lapping sessions and personal accident insurance from Standard Insurance.

Joining them in the said clinic is Mike Tuason, the youngest Formula Toyota Driver and the 1st Filipino Asian Zone Challenge Champion.

For other details, call 531-2962 or 535-4769 or send e-mail at trpteam@yahoo.com.

ON TO WORLD CUP

HSBC MasterCard country manager Poch Villareal (second from right) presents an imitation of the HSBC 2002 Fifa World Cup card to lucky credit card holder Mercedita Gacosta (center) and her son, Aexngelcyd (second from left). The Gacostas were chosen to witness the World Cup Finals in Japan. Looking on are HSBC senior VP for marketing James Benoit (extreme left) and Asia Pacific-Mastercard VP for Global Account Development Rick Rivere (extreme right).

Shell Karting series this weekend

THE CHANGE of venue could result to an unpredictable turn of events when the 2002 Shell Karting Super Series stages its fifth leg on June 22-23 at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

Top contenders, led by defending champion Pepon Marave, know that familiarity of the track plays a big part of their chances as it could make or break their bids for the titles at stake in this event sponsored by Pilipinas Shell, Casino Filipino, Bridgestone, ZED, Nokia, Coca-Cola Bottlers and Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office through general manager Ver Angelo.

Even Marave, who is used to racing formula cars at the Batangas Racing Circuit, expressed apprehension over track conditions.

His chief rivals include Tuason Racing-Team Oxygen's Mike Tuason, Cebuano Jess Garcia, GP-Kart Plaza's Jinky Cabilinan, Christian Sotto and Mofo's Allan Uy who pulled a big upset in the last leg.

"I may be familiar with the Batangas Racing Circuit but it's a different scenario riding a go-kart on the said track. So, *puwedeng mag*-work *sa akin o maging pabor sa ibang* karters," said Marave, who is eyeing a historic third Karter of the Year award.

"But definitely, it will be a big challenge for all of us. This will strengthen the mental toughness of the karters and test their versatility as far as strategy and skills are concerned," he said.

Hoping to improve on their title chances in the event sanctioned by the Automotive Association of the Philippines (AAP) are Fortura's Janjan Gonzales, M&M Racing's Lee Bumgarner, Matteo Guidecelli, Robert and Jonathan Buxton.

Gonzales eyes a big win in the Formula SL Light division to fortify his chances for the crown against Tim Gosnel, Kendrick Sy and Tuason Racing-Team Oxygen's Michael Yap.

Lee is seeking his third straight win in the Formula Rotax 125 over Intelco's JP Carino, Justin Neri and Kart 1's Philip Alvendia.

Guidicelli hopes to prevail anew over Marty Aguilar and Mark Bumgarner in the ZED Cadet 85; Robert Buxton hopes to rule the Zed Cadet 60 division anew against Brandon Angel and Calvin Marwood while Jonathan Buxton eyes another big win in the Formula Heavy class over Ricardo Loi and Dennis Almuete.

Also favored are young karters Michelle Bumgarner of M&M Racing, who is gunning for her fourth straight win in the Zed KT Juniors class against Matteo Guidicelli and Edgesport's Mica Anton.

Edgesports-Castrol's Arvin Drueco will try to pull another upset against more favored rivals Ryan Francisco, Kart 1's Dado Pena, Edgesports teammate Jeremy Marquez, Batsy Agabao and Mandy Borja in the Intercon-A class.

2002
31st B N-PBC Int onal O

BOWLING CHAMPS

Steve Hontiveros (extreme left), president of the Philippine Bowling Congress, poses with champions (from left to right) Frederick Ong (men's division) and Shalin Zulkifli of Malaysia (women's division), and Vivien Fung (Asian Bowling Federation president) and Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit during the awarding ceremonies of the just-concluded 31st Boysen-PBC International Open.

Kournikova slump continues

KOURNIKOVA in action against Grande at the Brittanic Assest Management International Championships. Grande won, 6-7 (4/7), 6-3, 6-1.

EASTBOURNE, England—Anna Kournikova vowed to fight her way out of the slump which has left her with ten defeats in 13 matches, the last accrued here Tuesday in the first round of the 585,000-dollar WTA event.

The 21-year-old Russian glamour girl was sent packing in a low-impact match on the grass, losing to Italian Rita Grande 6-7 (4/7), 6-3, 6-1.

"I didn't play well at all, I was doing everything wrong," Kournikova, who has played two semifinals and a quarterfinal here in three appearances since 1998, confessed after the match.

"I've felt good in training, but the match was frustrating."

Kournikova, whose ranking has slumped to 54th after being at eighth just over a year ago, has not won a match since reaching the third round on clay in Rome last month, losing to Spain's Virginia Ruano Pascal.

The highest-profile player in the game has still to claim a career singles title - but she admits not knowing how to go about it.

"It's confidence," said Kournikova who won the first set in a tie break before going out in straight sets.

"I've lost the sense of what I should do at what point in the match.

"I had a good start to the year (semi-finals in Auckland, Tokyo and Acapulco). I have other things going on in my life - I have to work this out," added Kournikova, who is now fretting about her chances at Wimbledon in less than a week's time.

"I have no idea about what to do about Wimbledon," she said. "I have to sit down and think some things out, try to figure out what's happening." *AFP*

DSCP slates 6th assembly, ranking meet

THE DANCE Sport Council of the Philippines, the only dancesport group recognized by the Philippine Olympic Committee, will stage the sixth general assembly and midyear ranking and competitions on July 18-20 at the Philsports Arena (formerly Ultra) in Pasig City.

"Everything is in readiness," said DSCP president Becky Garcia, adding that the activities will be highlighted by a teachers and adjudicators' workshop at the Dancesport Training Center at the Philsports Complex on July 16-17 under the auspices of the Professional Dance Teachers Association (Prodanz) headed by Cynthia Mamon.

Latin professional champion Brendan Cole and Camilla Dallerup will hold a demonstration, conduct a workshop and adjudicate at the competitions together with renowned Marcel de Rijk, World Dance and Dance Sport Council presidium member and chair of the WD and DSC social dance committee. The other adjudicators are Vincent Bulger of the United States, president and presidium member of the World Dance and Dance Sport Council and owner of the prestigious Fred Astaire dance schools; Tetsuji Kojima of Japan, WD and DSC vice president and presidium member; Nils-Hakan Carlson of Denmark, president of the International Dance Organization; and Royce Yeh of Taiwan, president of the Chinese-Taipeh Dancesport Association.

Dance athletes from all over the country will compete in the juvenile, junior, youth, one dance, two-dance, pro-amateur and ten-dance categories in both the Standard and Latin American disciplines. Also on tap is a professional team match pitting amateur Standard and Latin dance athletes against their counterparts in the pro division, with prize money going to the winners. For details, call Ana Faye at 635-0116, Ruby at 752-0435 to 36 or visit the Dancesport Training Center at the Philsports Complex.

4-cock derby draws 30 bets

ABOUT 30 of Metro Manila's well-known derby enthusiasts converge tonight at the Mandaluyong Coliseum with the staging of another special 4-cock derby.

Among those invited by derby host Jojo Alcovendaz are Peping Suarez, Renato Shio and Capt. Cesar Sto. Domingo of San Juan Coliseum, Eric dela Rosa, Butchoy Olano and Cito Manansala of Pasay Cockpit, Boyet Luna and Edgar Coronel of Pasig Square Garden, Edwin Vittali of Sta. Ana Cockpit, Bondying Catajan and Rey Lee of Mandaluyong Coliseum and participants from Mandaluyong Cockpit.

Meanwhile, two more big cockfests are lined up at the Mandaluyong Coliseum next week. These are the 4-cock derby on June 25 (OPMI Office Staff members Rody Torres, Joel Ngo and Maricar Gonzaga) and the Ucap Handlers 5-Cock Derby on June 27 (Ferdie Lim, Ferdinand Gaitan and Bulljack Fortaleza).

For inquiries, please contact 531-4003, 531-4005, 535-2341 and 534-4110.

Pasay cockpit event tomorrow

SOME 35 small-time cockers and breeders are expected to take part in Pasay City Cockpit's special 3-cock derby tomorrow.

To host the event, which dangles a cash prize of P150,000 to the winners, are Pasay matchmaker Willy Villaruz, Alan Marling and Don Ivy. Entry fee is P5,500 and participants may contact 843-1746, 843-1890 and 816-6750.

Meanwhile, the following 4-cock derbies are also scheduled at PCC: June 28 (Arnel Pimentel and RSC Farms), July 5 (Makisig Group) and July 12 (Toto and Rey San Luis).

The PCC 15th Anniversary 5-Cock Derby, offering over 1 million in guaranteed prizes to the champions, is slated on July 18 and 20.

But what makes this annual promotion attractive to derby enthusiasts is the traditional giveaways to participants. This year, every participant will receive one rice cooker, two-burner gas stove and one pack of special variety rice.

Tiaong to host MP Turbo Supercross

THE SECOND round of the MP Turbo's Supercross Series goes to Tiaong, Quezon, on June 23 coinciding with the town's fiesta celebration.

The Supercross Series marks the entry of MP Turbo into the sport of motocross to help organize an entry-level series that will give honor to beginners and locals in the different provinces of the country.

Round 1 was held in San Pablo City in May for the city's 62nd Foundation Day.

From Tiaong, the series will go to Batangas, Cavite, Bulacan, Pampanga, Zambales and Metro Manila.

The Tiaong leg is held in cooperation with the Tiaong Municipality headed by Mayor Leleng Umali and local project director Chito Beech.

Sanctioned by the National Motocross Sports & Safety Association headed by Ken Falco, and Fim Asia MX president Macky Carapiet, the series is supported by Zed, San Miguel Beer, Gulf Oil, Dickies, BLTBCo, Fil Estate Dev't Co., YEHEY.com, Rainforest Mineral Water, Gatorade, Gandour Candies and Daye-FMC Motorcycles.

For more details call MP Turbo at 832-5217, 8325144, 0919-8628940, or visit the MP Turbo website at www.mpturbo.ph.

Tiaong's own Bambie Atienza, who won the MX Open class in San Pablo, will head the locals.

Ridgely sailing champ

NASUGBU, Batangas—Ridgely Balladares emerged as the biggest winner in the recent Tali Beach Sailing Festival here by steering his 470 boat to victory in the open class.

Clarence Tayong finished second in a Laser while Rafael Buste was third in a Streaker.

Tayong and Buste actually topped their respective beat classes. Tayong beat Rico Magsanay and Roman Azanza in the Laser group while Buste toppled Bernard Flores and Darwin Santos in the Streaker class.

The other winners were Max Soriano, Optimist; Teodorico Asejo, Topper; and Benny Legarda, Sunfish.

Soriano finished ahead of Joseph Villena and Lester Tayong, Asejo whipped Carmelo Apdo and Leannie Tayong and Legarda beat Tong Manalac and Benny Alejandro.

Taal Lake Yacht Club's Peter Capotosto, Luigi Manzi, Rex Puentespina and Mark Haswell outdueled the Tali Sailors in the Tali Challenge.

RACING TIPS

At San Lazaro By Mr. 999

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Race 3—1. Earth Angel 2. Centennial 3. Dynamite Jack 4. Best of Ocean 5. Manila Mauler
Race 4—1. Apple Splash 2. Sweep Away 3. Doña Gelay
Race 5—1. Simple Doding 2. Peek-A-Boo 3. Maximus 4. Silakbo
Race 6—1. Rapid Strike 2. Kay Gee Em Ey 3. Brazen Truth 4. Hollywood Park 5. Hurry Prince 6. Something Best
Race 7—1. Shape of the Wind 2. Oh Diva 3. Mighty Dragon 4. Lucky Gambit 5. D Optician
Race 8—1. Standing Ovation 2. Standout 3. Real Piker Master
Race 9—1. Naughty 2. Winning Rose 3. Love Song 4. Morning Nell 5. Titan 6. Hotrod

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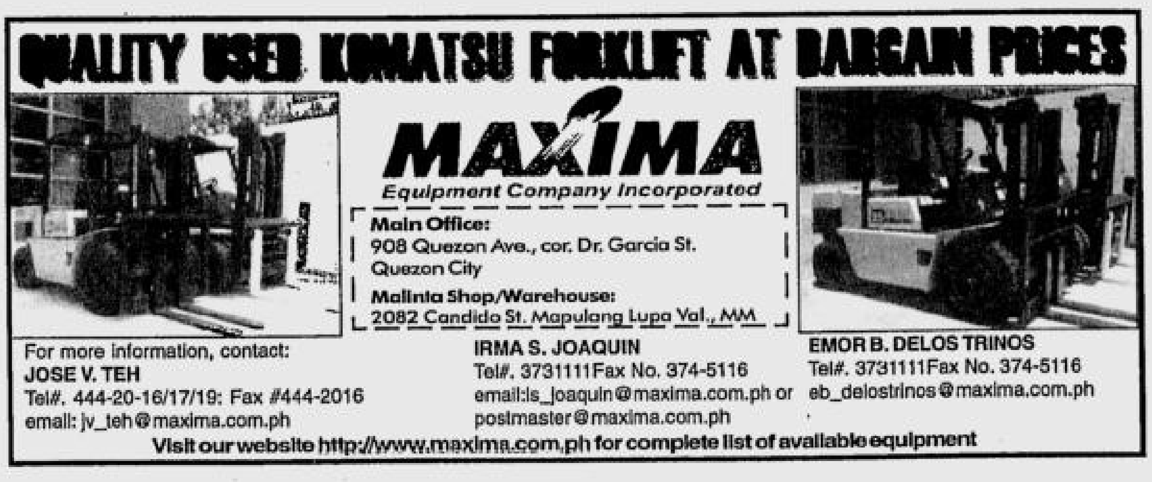
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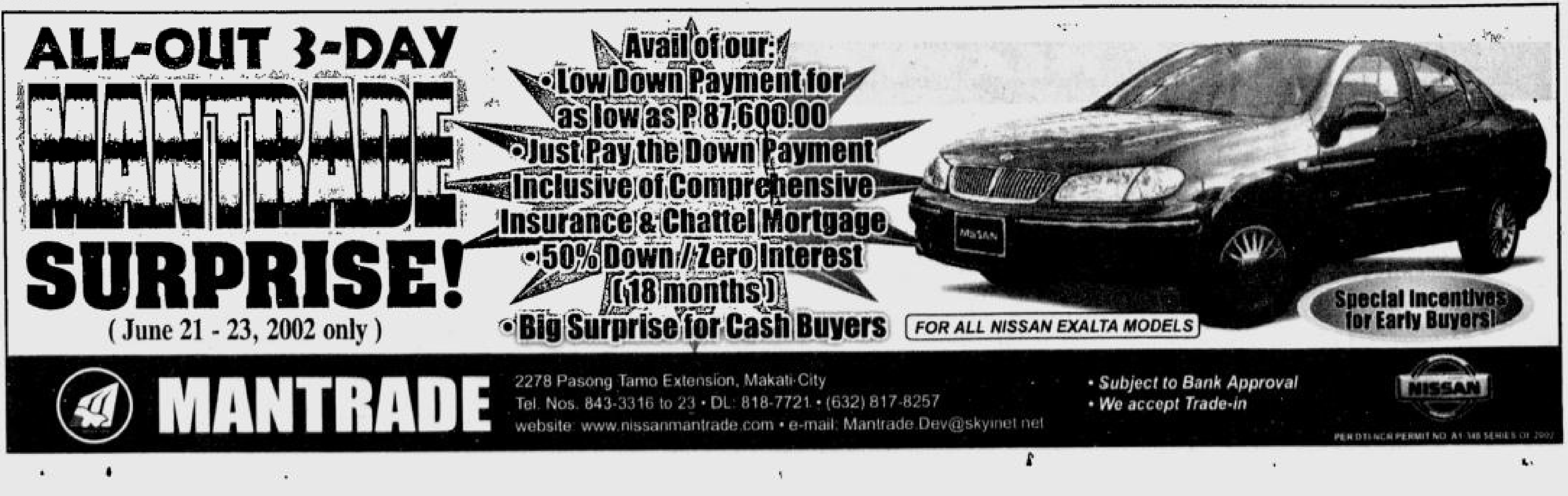
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SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Mangulat

TENNIS: Wimbledon Official Film 1998 at 8 a.m. (r), 1999 at 12 noon, 2000 at 6:30 p.m. on Star Sports

Best Of Wimbledon 2001 - Justine Henin vs Jennifer Capriati at 9 a.m. (r), Pat Rafter vs Andre Agassi at 10 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

ATP Stella Artois Championships 2002 at 1 p.m. (r- 6:30 p.m.) on Star Sports

SOCCER: Futbol Mundial at 11:30 p.m. on Star Sports

MOTORSPORTS: World Rally Championships 2002 Highlights at 5 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

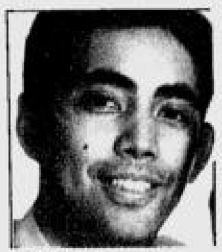
2002 Asian Formula 2000 Series, Rounds Three and Four at 6 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

Alaska tackles San Mig

GAME TODAY (Cuneta Astrodome)
7 p.m.—Alaska vs San Miguel

By June Navarro

ALASKA involved itself in a couple of player-exchange deals to strengthen its defensive lineup barely a week left before the start of the PBA Samsung Commissioner's Cup.



LAGO

The Aces, who acquired seven-footer EJ Feihl and enforcer Robert Duat in a three-team trade, test their new lineup when they open their campaign against San Miguel Beer today at the Cuneta Astrodome.

The Aces sent slotman James Wallkvist to Barangay Ginebra in exchange for Feihl and swapped swingman Bryan Gahol with Duat in a pact involving the Beermen.

Feihl and Duat, the Aces believe, work best at the defensive end that would give Alaska reinforcements Ajani Williams and Chris Carawell the luxury of shooting at will.

Carawell honed his skills in Duke University where the 6-foot-6 guard saw action for four NCAA seasons (1997-2000), while the 6-foot-9 Williams would impart the talent he learned from Georgia Tech in the '90s.

But it doesn't mean the Beermen were shortchanged in having Gahol on its roster. In fact, Gahol will add up to the growing list of San Miguel's agile big men.

Gahol, the pride of UP during his heydays in the UAAP, however, will have to compete for time with the likes of Dwight Lago and Nic Belasco.

Add imports Damon Flint of University of Cincinnati and Jermaine Tate of Ohio State on the floor and the chances of Gahol getting his usual exposure since his Alaska days remain slim.

But besides from personalities, the 7 p.m. thriller holds a lot of excitement as the Beermen begin their quest for a fifth straight championship in the Commissioner's Cup.

The Aces, too, have been a common fixture in the same conference since 1994 after finishing at least third place year after year.

RP pugs start Asian tilt bid

By Recah Trinidad

SEREMBAN, Malaysia—Top hope Lhyven Salazar, back-to-back gold medalist in the Acropolis and Bosnia tournaments, drew an Indian opponent but three of his Team Caltex mates were paired against awesome foes in yesterday's start of the 21st Asian Amateur Boxing championship here.

Salazar, a light-flyweight, will see action today but flyweight Warlito Parenas, bantamweight Ferdie Gamo and middleweight Maraon Golez were set to fight at the Paroi Stadium late Wednesday.

Parenas was to face North Korea Kim Won Guk, Gamo was paired against Kadraliev Taalai of Kyrgyztan while Golez was to box off with Haydrov Utkirbek of Uzbekistan.

Completing the eight-man Team Caltex, which arrived here way past midnight Tuesday after an hour's drive from Kuala Lumpur, are featherweight Roel Laguna, lightweight Anthony Igusquiza, light welterweight Florencio Ferrer and light middleweight Christopher Camat.

WHAT'S INSIDE

▨ **2 die as Korea beats Italy**/A18

▨ **Davao stops C. de Oro**/A18

▨ **Ateneo one win from PBL title**/ A18

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1992, Gerard Cantada finished with an aggregate 224 to win the Yokohama Tyre junior golf championship in Singapore.

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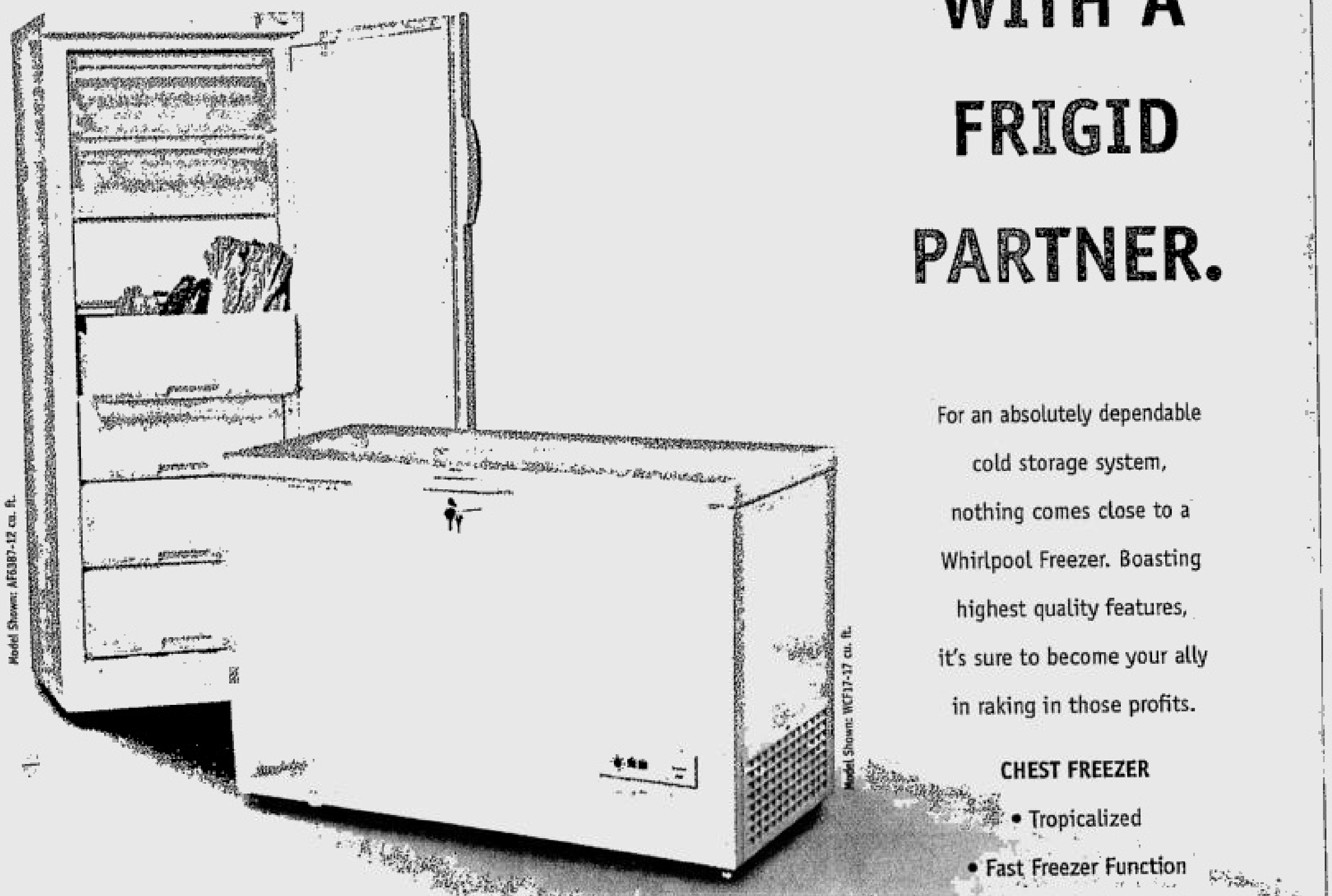

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Presidential intervention sought /A22

METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

Fernando's solution: 'Use other roads' /A23

Find the truth in nurse's slay, says VACC

By Christian V. Esguerra

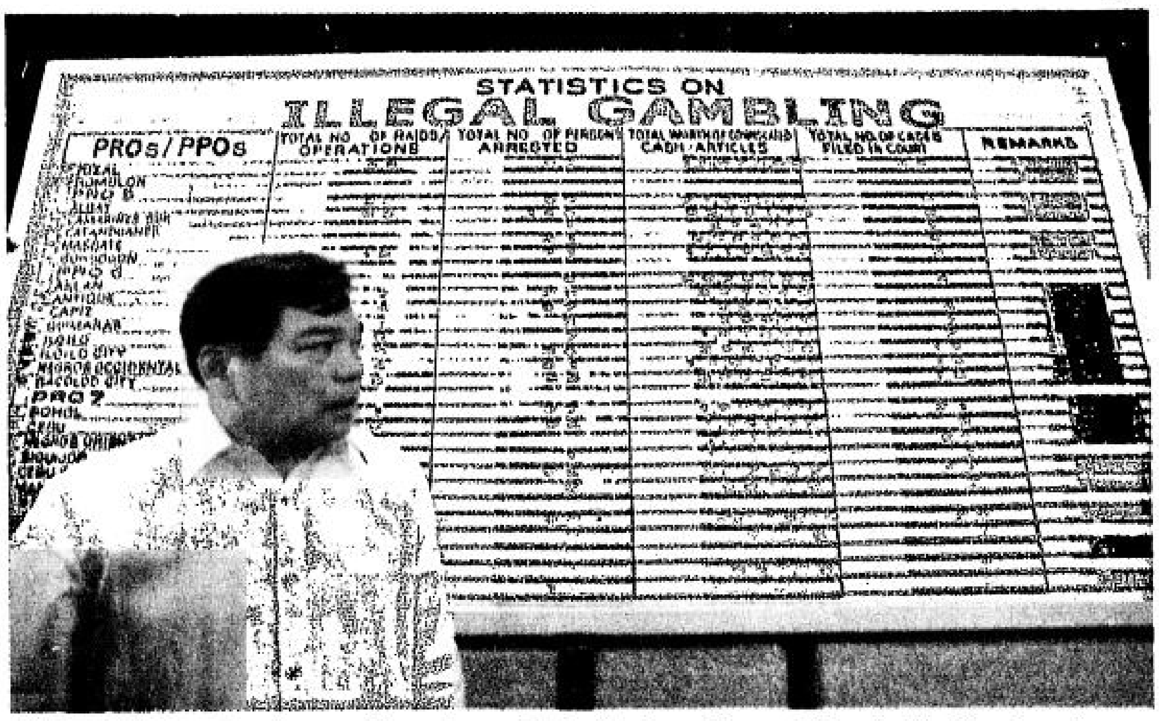
"SOMEONE was killed. We cannot just leave (the issue) at that. We need to find out the truth."

A fuming Dante Jimenez, chair of the Volunteers against Crime and Corruption, denounced the withdrawal of the murder charge against Marybeth Lopez de Leon, saying that the move was "a mockery of the Philippine justice system."

But the case has been virtually closed after a Las Piñas prosecutor yesterday announced that his office would not pursue the murder charge against . De Leon after Abella's family had withdrawn from the case.

"Cases are usually dismissed by prosecutors if complainants have filed an affidavit of desis-

FIND/ A23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TOTAL NO. OF RAIDS/OPERATIONS
TOTAL NO. OF PERSONS ARRESTED
TOTAL WORTH OF CONFISCATED CASH - ARTICLES
TOTAL NO. OF CASES FILED IN COURT
REMARKS

THEIR days are numbered, warns Lina as he unveils the illegal gambling watchboard at the Napolcom in Makati.
ERNIE SARMIENTO

7 PNP men's heads to roll, says Lina

By Alcuin Papa

SEVEN regional directors of the Philippine National Police are facing dismissal as well as criminal and administrative charges for failing to curb the illegal numbers game *jueteng* in their areas, according to Interior and Local Government Secretary Joey Lina and Napolcom vice chair Rogelio Pureza.

Lina, concurrent chair of the National Police Commission (Napolcom), yesterday told reporters that the Napolcom is validating and evaluating reports of illegal gambling in the areas of responsibility of the seven officers.

He said the total *jueteng* collections amount to about P10 to 12 billion pesos a year.

Lina did not identify the seven officers, but he identified the areas as Regions 1 to 5, the National Capital Region and the Cordillera Autono-

7 PNP/ A23

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METRO

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Fernando's solution: 'Use other roads' A23

Find the truth in nurse's slay, says VACC

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ERNIE SARMIEN

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"SOMEONE was killed. We cannot just leave (the issue) at that. We need to find out the truth."

A fuming Dante Jimenez, chair of the Volunteers against Crime and Corruption, denounced the withdrawal of the murder charge against Marybeth Lopez de Leon, saying that the move was "a mockery of the Philippine justice system."

But the case has been virtually closed after a Las Piñas prosecutor yesterday announced that his office would not pursue the murder charge against . De Leon after Abella's family had withdrawn from the case.

"Cases are usually dismissed by prosecutors if complainants have filed an affidavit of desis

FIND/ A23

7 PNP men's heads to roll, says Lina

By Alcuin Papa

SEVEN regional directors of the Philippine National Police are facing dismissal as well as criminal and administrative charges for failing to curb the illegal numbers game *jueteng* in their areas, according to Interior and Local Government Secretary Joey Lina and Napolcom vice chair Rogelio Pureza.

Lina, concurrent chair of the National Police Commission (Napolcom), yesterday told reporters that the Napolcom is validating and evaluating reports of illegal gambling in the areas of responsibility of the seven officers.

He said the total *jueteng* collections amount to about P10 to 12 billion pesos a year.

Lina did not identify the seven officers, but he identified the areas as Regions 1 to 5, the National Capital Region and the Cordillera Autono

7 PNP/ A23

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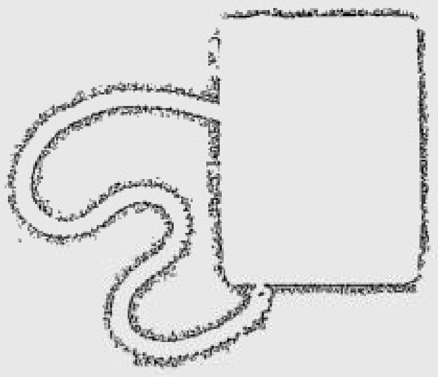

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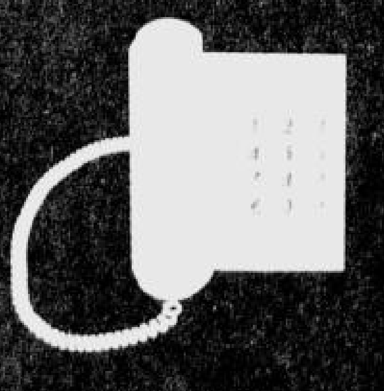

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Promo period is from May 12 to August 12, 2002. See posters for details. For DTI-NCR permit no. 0929, Series of 2002.

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PANDACAN OIL DEPOT

Presidential intervention sought

By Jerome Aning

SOME Manila councilors are looking at presidential intervention in resolving the conflict between the city government and the three big oil firms in connection with the impending closure of the Pandacan fuel depot.

"Asking President Macapagal-Arroyo to intervene in the matter is the ultimate way to avoid further conflict and to allow the city government to save face," a councilor, who requested anonymity, told the Inquirer.

He said the depot phaseout is a national issue not only because of the security concerns but also because the oil firms have already said that fuel prices could increase by as much as P3.

"Malacañang, not just the Department of Energy, has to be in control of the developments in the controversy unless it wants a revolution to erupt due to such a staggering increase that can cause far-reaching reverberations in the economy," the councilor said.

If city hall and the oil firms—Shell, Caltex and Petron —reach a compromise, the ordinance passed by the city council that effectively shuts down the facility would have to be enforced.

Mayor Lito Atienza has consistently refused to negotiate with the oil firms unless the latter accept the fact that they have to relocate as soon as possible.

But the oil firms want a study to be conducted first regarding the relocation.

They have proposed the scaling down of their operations, the use of common facilities and the putting up of "green buffer zones" around the depot to protect surrounding communities.

But Atienza's spokesman said these must only be "temporary measures" to be implemented preparatory to the eventual phaseout.

Recent reports of negotiations arranged by the energy department to resolve the controversy have triggered unrest in the council as some councilors expressed annoyance that Atienza did not consult them first.

But several councilors have already accepted the possibility of a gradual phaseout.

"A phase-by-phase shutdown is not a problem as long as the council sees it is justified and viable," independent Councilor Isko Moreno said in a separate interview.

Moreno blamed the majority in the council for rushing the phaseout ordinance and for failing to listen to the concerns of the oil firms during the public hearings.

"If the oil firms say they can move out in ways that are practical to them, then the council should at least reconsider," he said.

Moreno advised the oil firms to refrain from threatening to jack up oil prices when defending their stand not to move out.

"(What is) at stake here is the security of thousands of Pandacan residents against a big fire or a terrorist attack on the depot," he said.

Malonzo to bring land dispute with Malabon to Supreme Court

By Tina Santos

CALOOCAN City Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo will bring to the Supreme Court the case of the 40 hectares that Malabon City claims in under its jurisdiction, according to the Caloocan City administrator Mamerto Manahan.

Manahan said Malonzo will let the higher court decide on the ownership of the disputed land in barangays 160 and 161 in Libis, Baesa, which Caloocan is claiming.

Malonzo remained firm in his own claim that the property is part of Caloocan City since the residents have been paying their taxes to the city.

Malabon City legal officer lawyer Danilo Diaz said during court proceedings that Malonzo admitted that the property was part of Malabon.

But Manahan denied this, saying they only learned of Malabon's claim when negotiations for a shelved terminal project were going on.

Malabon Mayor Amado Vicencio and Diaz earlier said that Malonzo knew all along that the disputed land was within the territorial jurisdiction of Malabon. Based on a certification issued by the Land Management Bureau, the property, particularly the one in the western part of the North Luzon Expressway, was declared part of Malabon prior to the approval of the law converting Malabon into a city, said Diaz.

He said a taxation survey showed that the 40 hectares are part of Malabon after CLT Realty, which has a property within the contested land, filed a case to determine where it should pay real property taxes.

Manahan denied allegations that Malonzo used the contested property as his defense in a case against him in which he was accused of realigning the P50-million fund for the expropriation of the land to the salaries and bonuses of Caloocan City hall employees. The land was supposed to be converted into the proposed Caloocan City bus terminal.

But Manahan admitted they had realigned the funds so the money would not be wasted since they knew that it would take long before the case could be decided.

He also refuted Diaz's claims that the Malabon local government is providing basic services to the residents of the disputed property.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

ANTI-ATIVAN

As part of its efforts to identify suspected members of the Ativan Gang, which has been preying on tourists, Western Police District policemen rounded up people who live in the streets of Manila and held them at the WPD basketball court. They will be turned over to the Department of Social Welfare and Development, policemen said.

Checks scam at the AFP Finance Center

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

HERE'S one for Ripley's: At the Armed Forces Finance Center in Camp Aguinaldo, they issue and cash checks of dead military pensioners. These checks end up not with the families of the dead pensioners but in the hands of corrupt officers.

Checks of dead retirees or the widows who have followed them to the grave should be forfeited and returned to the National Treasury. But some officers at the AFP Finance Center don't want the dead persons' checks ending up useless, so they cash those checks themselves.

It's a racket that has probably defrauded the government of billions of pesos over the years.

***

An officer formerly assigned to the AFP Finance Center told me about the massive swindling of the government.

The identity of this officer I will keep secret until a full-dress investigation is conducted by concerned government agencies.

The officer said he had made an investigation of the big-time racket and submitted the results of the investigation to AFP higher-ups. But, he said, nothing has been done about it.

***

This middle-ranking officer estimated that from P20 million to P30 million is lost by the government every month through the encashment of the checks of dead retirees and their dead widows. The signatures of the dead persons are forged.

Top-level officers of the Finance Center and some top brass in the Armed Forces divide the dirty money.

That's why, the officer said, all of the top-ranking officers at the Finance Center have not been investigated by higher-ups. Although they are overstaying in their positions at the Finance Center, they have not been given other assignments. The rule is that no officer can stay at his post for more than three years, but the concerned officers have been there for many years.

***

Armed Forces chiefs of staff have come and gone, but the officers at the Finance Center are still there.

Perhaps the past chiefs of staff knew about the racket. Or they didn't.

But, our officer-informer said, the people at J-1 (Armed Forces personnel department) definitely know about the existence of the big-time syndicate at the AFP Finance Center. The J-1 is in charge of the assignment of military officers and enlisted personnel.

***

How does the syndicate operate?

Checks belonging to dead beneficiaries are separated from the others. Somebody in the syndicate takes care of forging the signatures of the dead recipients.

The checks, according to the officer, are cashed at the Composite Wings Savings and Loan Association (Cowslai). The Cowslai is a private lending organization serving the needs of Air Force as well as General Headquarters (GHQ) personnel.

Air Force Col. Roseabel Ocbina, Cowslai president and founder, is also the AFP Finance Center chief.

***

The Manila Hotel, once considered the "Grand Dame of the Orient," has lost its old grandeur.

The hotel, the official residence of Gen. Douglas MacArthur before World War II, was rated until lately first class or five-star. Now, it has degenerated into a third-rate hotel in ambience and service.

The décor is *chopsuey*, a hodge-podge of so many motifs and colors. The interior designer was apparently paid cheap; if not, he or she could have discarded aesthetics in favor of *feng shui*. There are so many paintings and decorations which have a place in a Chinese restaurant in Ongpin but are very unbecoming in a supposedly five-star hotel.

***

The Hong Kong-street ambience of the Manila Hotel is probably the reason the spacious Manila Hotel lobby is always deserted. The lobby was where members of Manila's elite once waited for their guests before going to the different function rooms or dining halls.

The place is now dimly lit and untidy. At the Ilang-Ilang coffee shop, food no longer tastes as good as before, to put it mildly. There were times when tables even ran out of sugar.

The Champagne Room, where only guests wearing formal attire were allowed, is already open to people who wear T-shirts.

Manila Hotel, a national treasure? How about a national junk?

***

I bumped into Sen. Loren Legarda in Puerto Princesa City over the weekend during the centennial celebration of Palawan as a province.

Legarda's reported switching of party was hot news that day.

"Mon, I never jumped ship, I am still with the administration," she said.

***

She also belied reports that she and Sen. Edgardo Angara would be running mates in the 2004 presidential election.

The forming of the Ed-Loren ticket, reports said, was officially announced in Antique where they both attended a town celebration.

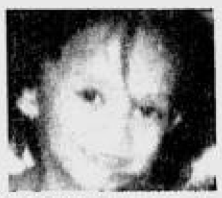
In denying her reported partnership with Angara, Legarda said that she would much prefer a "Gloria-Loren" ticket in 2004. "What about that Mon?" she said.

***

Palawan's 100-year celebration was a big success.

Every minor detail in the affair was carefully planned, from taking care of the important guests like Senator Legarda to creating the motif of each float representing each town in the province.

Gov. Joel Reyes chose his subordinates well. They made the celebration a success. Congratulations!



TAMAYO

4-year-old girl missing

MARY ANN Tamayo, 4, has been missing since May 27, 2002, according to her parents.

The girl was last seen at SM Centerpoint in Sta. Mesa, Manila.

If you find Mary Ann, please bring her home to 18-B Viola St., San Juan, or call SPO1 Alberto Tamayo at 434-36-87, (0916)532-1583 or (0916)3420375.

American gets life term for illegal recruitment

By Christian V. Esguerra

AN AMERICAN businessman was sentenced to life imprisonment after he was found guilty of illegally recruiting 15 nurses, physical therapists and other skilled workers in Pasay City in 2000.

Charles "Glenn" Craven, 70, who used to hold office at Trader's Hotel on Roxas Boulevard, was also found guilty of 13 counts of estafa.

Craven was fined P100,000 for the illegal recruitment charge and also drew a six-year prison term for estafa.

In her testimony, nurse Leny Arrogante Solas, 29, said Craven invited her in July 2000 to avail herself of a fly-now-pay-later program that promised to land her a job in the United States.

She said she paid P4,500 for the processing of her working papers and posted a $500-ond.

Solas said that five months later, she discovered that Craven had not processed a single paper for her travel to the US.

She said she and other victims went to the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration in February and learned that the American was not authorized to recruit workers.

Several other victims, mostly health workers, had a similar experience with Craven, according to the 29-page decision of Judge Henrick Gingoyon.

In his defense, Craven said he was a legitimate businessman engaged in foreign investment.

He said his company and a certain Foreign Investors Consultancy Management also employed monthly about 100 nurses, physical therapists and information technologists for more than 400 hospitals and clinics in the US.

But Judge Gingoyon ruled that "the guilt of the accused...has been satisfactorily proved by the prosecution beyond reasonable doubt."

Fr. Reyes arraignment postponed

RUNNING priest Fr. Robert Reyes was given a temporary reprieve after a Quezon City judge yesterday postponed the arraignment of his libel case.

Judge Normandy Pizarro of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 100 granted Reyes' motion to defer arraignment, pending the resolution of a petition for review the priest filed before the Department of Justice on June 13.

The arraignment was moved to Aug. 21.

Reyes' lawyers asked the justice department to reverse Asst. City Prosecutor Rosanna Morales-Montojo's recommendation for the filing of libel charges against the priest.

In her April 23 resolution, Morales-Montojo found probable cause that Reyes had committed libel against Cagayan Rep. Juan "Jackie" Ponce Enrile Jr. *Agnes E. Donato*

NBI agent fails lie test in case of missing shabu

By Philip Tubeza

THE NOOSE is tightening around the neck of the National Bureau of Investigation agent who pilfered more than seven kilos of shabu from the bureau's evidence room.

NBI intelligence chief Anthony Liongson said the suspect did not pass a lie detector test.

"He lied when asked (certain) material questions," Liongson said.

But he added that the special NBI committee investigating the pilferage is still gathering enough evidence to charge the suspect in court.

"(The polygraph test) is not admissible in court," Liongson said.

He explained that, so far, the bureau has "circumstantial evidence" against the suspect.

"He opted to transfer to another unit when the investigation began," Liongson said.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco earlier said that "all personnel from the NBI Special Task Force (STF) and the Forensic Chemistry Division (FCD) technical service" would be investigated.

NBI-STF members confiscated the missing shabu during a raid in Pasay City in December 2000.

The illegal drugs were stored in the FCD evidence room.

The pilferage was discovered in April when the Pasay Regional Trial Court ordered that the shabu be destroyed. When the court sheriff checked the evidence room, he found out that it had been pilfered.

Former NBI intelligence chief Samuel Ong, then head of the inquiry committee, said 7.37 kilos of shabu were missing.

Wycoco earlier sacked Forensic Chemistry Division chief Idabel Pagulayan, Dangerous Drugs section chief Constancia Salonga, and evidence custodian Lucia Gonzales for their "administrative responsibility" in the pilferage.

But Wycoco recently said the three officials had nothing to do with the disappearance of the shabu.

He said the three could now go back to work at the NBI but not get back their old positions.

"They can do lab work for now," he said. "They can help out in technical services."

METROBRIEFS

Death sentence in Makati

MAKATI Regional Trial Court Judge Ricardo Rosario on Tuesday sentenced to death Celino Nabong, Alvin Laguit, and Nolfe Ladiao, who worked as steel men for the EEI construction firm, for murdering and attempting to rape an accountant three years ago. But Rosario acquitted Arnel Miraflor for "insufficiency of evidence." The judge also ordered the three to pay the victim's family P3.2 million in damages. Court records showed the three men were drunk when they snatched the victim on the evening of March 23, 1999 and took her to a vacant lot near the corner of Buendia Avenue and Ayala Avenue. The victim was found partially naked and bleeding from six stab wounds. She later died at the Makati Medical Center, records showed. *Alcuin Papa*

Robbery in UST

UNIDENTIFIED thieves stole P600,000 worth of medical equipment from the Eent Clinic of Reynaldo Javate at the University of Santo Tomas Hospital in Manila, said SPO1 Emmanuel Lopez, of the Western Police District-Theft and Robbery Section. There were no signs of forcible entry, Lopez added.

He said the theft happened while the clinic was closed between 5:30 p.m. on June 15 to 6:30 a.m. on June 18. He said the clinic was still locked when the theft was discovered yesterday. Javete told police that only he and one member of his staff have a key to the clinic. *Philip C. Tubeza*

Drowning in Pasig River

MARLON Dugoldugol, 26, of Welfareville Compound, Mandaluyong City drowned when he fell into the Pasig River late Tuesday night, police said. His body was found floating in the river shortly after dawn near the Manggahan Floodway. Investigation showed that Dugoldugol was drunk when he and his brother Nilo, who was also drunk urinated along the riverbank. Dugoldugol fell into the river, and Nilo jumped after him, but failed to rescue his brother, police said. *Nelson F. Flores*

Demolition in North Bay boulevard

TENSION rose in Navotas when members of the Department of Public Works and Highways demolished the houses of more than 300 families on Tuesday morning. The DPWH razed the houses on the North Bay Boulevard South in Navotas, as part of a road-widening project. Witnesses said the DPWH demolition team, together with two truckloads of men from the Special Weapon and Tactics (SWAT), started to dismantle the houses about 7 a.m. Some residents said while the demolition men were dismantling their houses, some SWAT members fired their guns indiscriminately to scare off residents who might want to fight back. Francisco Dacanay, the barangay chair of the area, claimed the demolition was illegal since the affected residents were not even notified of the demolition and were not even given the chance to relocate. *Tina Santos*

Fish confiscation in Navotas

MEMBERS of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources seized tons of fish allegedly caught through dynamite fishing at the Navotas Fishport Complex on Tuesday morning. Authorities said they made the bust inside the Navotas Fishport III following an inspection conducted at 9:30 a.m. Police Security Division chief Arfilo Catipay said the confiscated fish were contained in 46 styrofoam boxes. Each box is worth P2,500, he said. Catipay believed the fish were caught off Zamboanga City, where dynamite fishing is allegedly prevalent. Authorities are still determining who were responsible for the illegal operation. *Tina Santos*

Molesting in Malate

SHA NAHYANG, a doctor of herbal medicine from Shanghai, China, was arrested on Saturday for allegedly molesting a cigarette vendor in Malate, Manila. Sha, 47, who also runs a restaurant in Manila, was charged with acts of lasciviousness before the city prosecutor's office, police said. The 19-year-old complainant told police she was tending her cigarette stand on Remedios Circle when the suspect, whom she described as drunk, approached her and mashed her genitalia. The vendor screamed for help and concerned passers-by collared the "doctor." Sha was later taken to the general assignments section of the city police where he introduced himself as "a doctor of oriental medicine in Shanghai." But Sha, through an interpreter, told police that he did not molest the girl. He said he was just about to buy a cigarette from her when two men held him up and took his wallet and wristwatch. *Jerome Aning*

Bust in Malabon

SEVEN people, including three minors, were arrested in separate buy-bust operations in Malabon City. Police identified the suspects as Lagrimas Gonzales, 66, Wilbert Aspuria, 20, all residents of University Avenue, Potrero, Malabon, Valzer Magpayo, 19, Rodolfo Cadayan, 19, and a 17-year-old boy, all of Potrero. Police also arrested two 15-year-old girls of University Avenue. Investigators said Magpayo, Cadayan and their teenage buddy were caught at 7:30 a.m. in Magpayo's house in Potrero. Drug Enforcement lawmen said they received a tip from the suspects' neighbors. A follow-up operation resulted in the arrest of Lagrimas, Aspuria and the two girls on Sampaloc Street, Barangay Panghulo at around noon. Police seized about 5 grams of shabu and drug paraphernalia from the suspects. *Tina Santos*

'Weakest Link' hopeful dies during TV taping

AN EXCITED contestant of the game show "Weakest Link" reportedly died of heart attack while attending a taping of the show in Marikina City Tuesday morning.

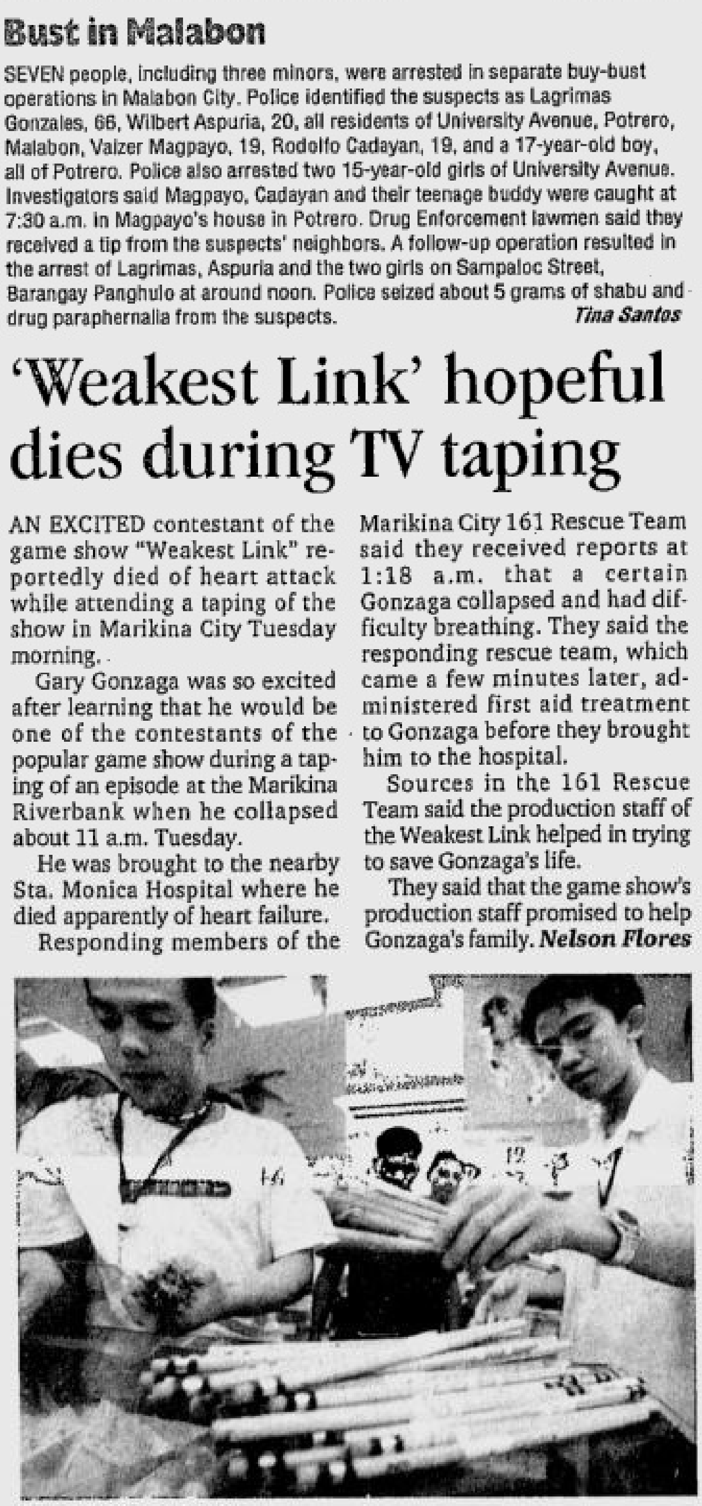
Gary Gonzaga was so excited after learning that he would be one of the contestants of the popular game show during a taping of an episode at the Marikina Riverbank when he collapsed about 11 a.m. Tuesday.

He was brought to the nearby Sta. Monica Hospital where he died apparently of heart failure.

Responding members of the Marikina City 161 Rescue Team said they received reports at 1:18 a.m. that a certain Gonzaga collapsed and had difficulty breathing. They said the responding rescue team, which came a few minutes later, administered first aid treatment to Gonzaga before they brought him to the hospital.

Sources in the 161 Rescue Team said the production staff of the Weakest Link helped in trying to save Gonzaga's life.

They said that the game show's production staff promised to help Gonzaga's family. ***Nelson Flores***



PENCIL PLUNDER
Members of the Western Police District intelligence and investigation division recently raided four branches of Uniwide Warehouse in Quezon City, Parañaque, Coastal Road and Manila and confiscated fake Mongol pencils. The raids were made following a complaint made by Amalgamated Specialties Corp. (Amspec), producer of the original Mongol pencil.

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WET WATCH JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN
Members of the Freedom from Debt Coalition rush into MWSS compound in Balara, Quezon City and throw plastic bags filled with water at the building. The demonstrators were protesting the planned water rate increase that will mean a basic charge of P30 per cubic meter.

FERNANDO'S SOLUTION

'Use other roads'

By Alcuin Papa

"LET'S use other roads" aside from the main ones like Edsa and C-5.

This was the solution presented by new Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chair Bayani Fernando to ease the traffic problem in the metropolis.

Fernando made the proposal in his first news conference last Monday morning after the turnover at the MMDA headquarters in Makati City.

"We have many roads that are not used much because of a lack of linkages," he noted. "Also, there are obstructions in the minor roads."

His first order to solve the traffic mess was "to take away the obstructions," including man-made structures, parked cars and sidewalk vendors.

"We can't keep on using Edsa and C-5 alone," he said. "To get to the other side of the Pasig River, most of us need to go through Edsa. We need to open all the other streets and clear them of obstructions.

"Pedestrians should be able to use the sidewalks," he added.

Another solution is to "expropriate property to build roads," he said. "There is a lack of streets in Metro Manila. Only a few are being used."

Finally, he also proposed the building of more bridges to link minor roads to major roads in the metropolis.

"Drivers react to their environment," he said. "If it's chaotic, the tendency is to be chaotic behind the wheel."

As for the "color-coding" plan, Fernando reiterated that the scheme, which has been implemented for the past six years, should be evaluated.

"I think it's time to study and evaluate it if it needs changes or not," he said.

He quickly added, however, that he is not advocating the scrapping of the scheme just yet.

When it was pointed out that the big transport groups have expressed opposition to his appointment as MMDA chair because of his vaunted strictness, the former Marikina mayor quipped, "I'm nervous too."

"No one is not nervous to change," he said. "But it (change) is necessary. I will have to dialogue with them."

He said he would be active in going after "kotong cops," traffic policemen who extort money from motorists.

"We have to catch them in the act," he said. "That's doable."

Gordon wants night courts restored

By Jerome Aning

TOURISM secretary Richard Gordon has urged the return of night courts to check the increasing number of crimes committed on foreign tourists.

In a dialogue with police officials on Monday, Gordon said criminal elements are drawn to foreigners because the latter are usually transients.

He also noted that authorities often do not have time to process the complaints of foreigners because some victims have to leave the country after a period of time while others simply leave right away.

Under the night court system, court and prosecutors' offices are open 24 hours. The night courts will deal with crimes involving foreigners that often take place after dark.

A prosecutor may quickly go through a victim's complaint and file it in court that will, in turn, automatically conduct a hearing.

After a victim has given his or her testimony, the court may issue a judgment on the case.

The tourism chief said he has written Justice Secretary Hernani Perez regarding the mechanics and implications of the proposal.

Gordon also said the police must also do their share to enhance security for tourists.

Caloocan residents denounce pipe factory

By Tina Santos

MORE than 200 residents of a Caloocan City subdivision have filed a petition seeking the relocation of a factory manufacturing metal exhaust pipes, which they said was hazardous to their general welfare and well-being.

In their complaint, the residents of Barangay 70, Zone 6, 10th Avenue, Grace Park, Caloocan City, particularly those on Baltazar 3, 4 and Palon streets, sought the removal of Rockford for the incessant noise it produces which reaches "intolerable" levels.

Juanito Cheng supposedly owns the factory.

The residents also complained of the factory's unsanitary and hazardous disposal of toxic waste.

The residents said the owner of the factory has remained indifferent to their plight and still operates despite petitions they had submitted to city hall and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) seeking its transfer to a more appropriate area.

They said both agencies had been sitting on the issue for months.

"My barangay is purely residential in nature and complaining residents believe that Rockford should be relocated as soon as possible so as not to endanger the (residents') lives further," barangay Chair Nestor Samson, said.

Sources said the company was a warehouse for muffler materials but it was later turned into a fully operational factory.

Find the truth in nurse's...

From page A21

tance," state prosecutor Mario Mangrobang said in Filipino. "In our case, we won't pursue the complaint against Marybeth anymore."

Abella's family withdrew from the case early this week, saying de Leon could not have killed the private nurse because the victim was her confidante.

The surprising move drew heavy flak from the VACC.

Jimenez on Tuesday urged the Las Piñas police and the prosecutor's office to pursue the murder complaint against De Leon, wife of Jose Vicente Madrigal de Leon, even if the Abella family had cleared her.

"The complainant here is the People of the Philippines, so I will find it weird if the State won't pursue this case," Jimenez said. "We're talking about a murder charge here, not just a civil case that can be easily settled with money."

In an interview with reporters on Monday, Mangrobang said he was not keen on going after de Leon because the complainants had already lost interest in the case.

He hinted that there could have been a settlement between De Leon and Abella's son Jansen, husband Raul, and live-in partner Zandro, who all signed the affidavit of desistance.

The affidavit, he said, practically closed his office's preliminary investigation of the killing of Abella last April.

Mangrobang yesterday said chief prosecutor Olma Inocentes is set to sign his resolution and formalize the dismissal of the complaint tomorrow.

Shortly after Abella was killed, members of her family freely granted interviews. But after it was reported that a settlement had been reached last week, the family members suddenly became silent. They could not be reached through their mobile phones and contact number at home.

Before Mangrobang conducted a preliminary investigation, police said they had a very strong case against De Leon.

Authorities were relying on the sworn statement of de Leon's driver-bodyguard, Wensis Tablang, who claimed he saw his boss alight from her BMW car holding a pistol. Tablang also said he saw Abella inside de Leon's car, dying from a gunshot wound in the chest.

Tablang has since been reported missing.

In a reply-affidavit he submitted shortly after the death of his mother, Jansen said a May 16 certification from the Philippine National Police Firearms and Explosives Division showed that the 9-mm pistol supposedly used in the killing was "owned by and licensed/registered in the name of Marybeth Lopez de Leon."

7 PNP men's heads...

From page A21

mous Region.

At present, Chief Supt. Arturo Lomibao heads the PNP regional command in Region 1, Chief Supt. Dominador Resos heads Region 2, Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya heads Region 3, Chief Supt. Domingo Reyes Region 4, Chief Supt. Enrique Galang for Region 5, Deputy Dir. Gen. Edgar Aglipay heads the national capital region and Chief Supt. George Aliño the Cordillera region.

Lina said non-organic personnel of the PNP from other units have conducted three or more anti-illegal gambling operations in Regions 3 and 4.

The regional commanders in these regions, he said, would be facing charges of dereliction of duty and other criminal cases once the DILG and the Napolcom have validated reports of illegal gambling.

He said that in the case of the five other regions, Napolcom has already received reports of the "continuous operation" of illegal gambling in these areas. The reports are being studied before charges would be filed against PNP regional directors in these areas.

"The Napolcom will be furnished a report on the (anti-illegal gambling) raids conducted by non-organic teams and it will evaluate the report," Lina said. "When complete, the report can be the basis of a decision (to file the cases against the PNP officers)."

According to Napolcom memorandum 2002-005, a PNP unit commander faces relief and criminal charges once three or more separate raids against illegal gambling activities have been conducted in his area.

A PNP official or unit chief who fails or refuses to stop illegal gambling in his area of responsibility will be charged administratively for serious neglect of duty under the doctrine of command responsibility as well as other criminal cases under the Penal Code.

Lina added that the Napolcom would also file administrative and criminal charges against local chief executives who have knowledge of illegal gambling in their areas but have failed to stop these activities.

Local officials will also face criminal charges of violation of the Penal Code, the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Law and the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees. The charges will be filed before the Office of the Ombudsman.

Celebrities play ball in Boracay

From page A26

ager Jojo de la Cruz, launched the cleanup of the beach and the water, from the beachfront of Red Coconut Resort.

GMA 7 host Lyn Ching and Nestea's De la Cruz led locals and tourists in the cleanup. Scuba divers went underwater to gather waste. At the end of the activity, all the litter collected was put in a garbage truck. Special awards were given to the finders of the most "unique trash."

This is the second year that Nestea held the cleanup as a show of gratitude to the island for being the tournament's annual host. Last year, Nestea donated specially made buoys to the resort island. This year, Neste put up a lookout tower.

Nearly a hundred teams participated in the volleyball games this year. For the first time in six years, Nestea held separate elimination rounds for Metro Manila, Luzon and Visayas-Mindanao. Sixteen teams ended up in Boracay to vie for the crown and P500,000 cash bonanza.

Nestea mounted the first Collegiate Beach Volleyball Tournament in 1997 and drew droves of young athletes from different colleges and universities all over Metro Manila.

In the following years, young athletes kept coming back for more of the action, from Manila as well as from other parts of the country.

To date, participating in the inter-collegiate tournament has become every volleyball player's goal. The Philippine Amateur Volleyball Association looks forward to the games where it scouts for athletes for the national pool and train them for international events.

Judging from the success of the sixth year of the Nestea beach volleyball in Boracay, the tournament is becoming the most anticipated sports event every summer.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	DISKARTE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	MAGKAPATID
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	SCOOBY-DOO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SUM OF ALL FEARS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	A WALK TO REMEMBER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	MONSTERS BALL
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	SCOOBY-DOO
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	DISKARTE
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX MEDUSA / HIYAS SA PARAISO
ODEON	SUM OF FEAR
ODEON-2	MAMASAN
ROBEN	DISKARTE
TANDEM-1	ITLOG
TANDEM-2	IKA-7 GLORYA
TIMES	COLLATERAL DAMAGE / MIMIC-2
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	MAMASAN
REMAR	DISKARTE
REMAR-2	MAMASAN
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	DISKARTE
B	MAGKAPATID
C	SUPER B
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	SCOOBY-DOO
CINEMA-2	FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	DISKARTE
CINEMA-2	MAMASAN
CINEMA-3	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MAGKAPATID
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	SUPER B
CINEMA-6	UTANG NI TATANG
CINEMA-7	CASS & CARY
CINEMA-8	MAGKAPATID
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	A WALK TO REMEMBER
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	MAGKAPATID
CINEMA-12	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
CINEMA-14	DISKARTE
CINEMA-15	SUPER B
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	A WALK TO REMEMBER
CINEMA-2	SCOOBY DOO
CINEMA-3	SUM OF ALL FEARS
CINEMA-4	MONSTER BALL
CINEMA-5	SCOOBY DOO
CINEMA-6	SUM OF ALL FEARS
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

MERCADO. Hosts "Coffee Talk" on weekends.

ANC premieres lifestyle talk-magazine show

WAKE UP to "Coffee Talk," the first lifestyle talk-magazine on the ABS-CBN News Channel (ANC), which premieres June 22.

Hosted by seasoned reporter and program anchor Cheri Mercado, "Coffee Talk" is a fresh encounter with real people who took charge of their lives, spiced up with lifestyle features guaranteed to perk up your weekend.

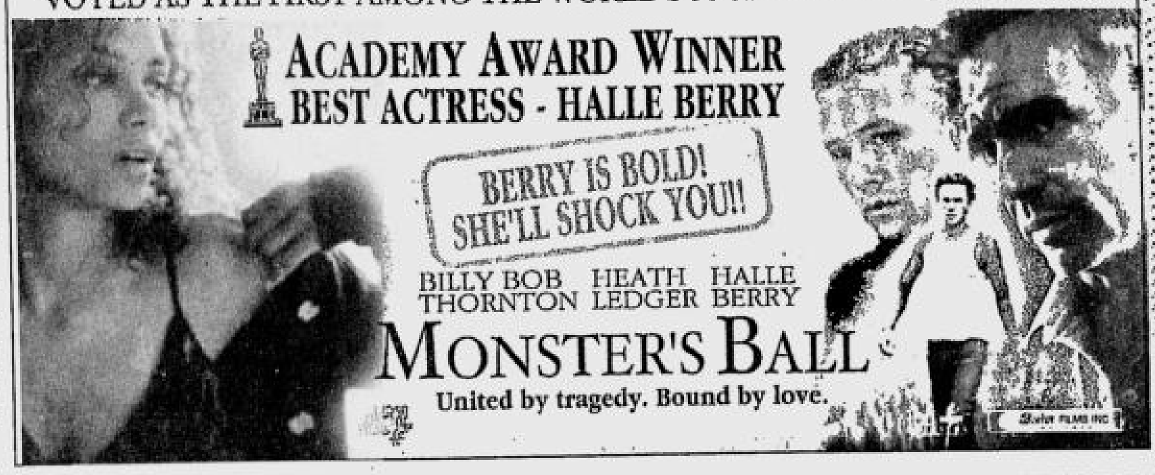
The program goes on air over ANC at 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays.

"I've been waiting for a project like this for a long time," says Cheri, who started her broadcasting career six years ago as a field reporter for ABS-CBN's "TV Patrol" and late night news programs.

"I often meet and interview young achievers and now with in 'Coffee Talk,' our viewers will get to an intimate look at how they arrived at success so early in life."

The show's executive producer, Anjie Ureta, attests it's going to be a different Cheri Mercado that viewers will see on "Coffee Talk."

"Cheri will not only report about people or events, but will get to interact with them and become involved," Anjie says. "It's a warmer, more gregarious, more playful Cheri that viewers will see on weekends. And that's closer to who she really is."



MTRCB RATING ▸ R-18 Strictly for Adults only

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BERRY IS BOLD! SHE'LL SHOCK YOU!!

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MONSTER'S BALL

United by tragedy. Bound by love.

THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS

a landmark reinvented!

NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1 SCOOBY-DOO 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00. GP

CINEMA 2 THE SUM OF ALL FEARS 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00 P 13

All Reserved Seating: P120.00

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA

MUSIC MUSEUM JUNE 28 & 29 FALSETTOS (New Voice Company) 8:30 PM

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

For screening times, call 729-7777. Schedules are subject to change without prior notice.

AYALA CINEMAS NOW SHOWING

	G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1	THE SUM OF ALL FEARS	A WALK TO REMEMBER	MONSTERS BALL	SCOOBY DOO 11:20, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20, 11:20	THE SUM OF ALL FEARS
2	A WALK TO REMEMBER	MONSTERS BALL	SUM OF ALL FEARS	SUM OF ALL FEARS 00, 3:35, 6:10, 8:45, 11:20	A WALK TO REMEMBER
3	MAGKAPATID	SCOOBYDOO 12:30, 3:00, 3:30, 8:00, 10:30	SCOOBY DOO	MURDER BY NUMBERS 10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20	SCOOBY DOO
4	SCOOBY DOO	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS	MARTIN NIEVERA BACK ONSTAGE 9:00 PM June 21, 22, 28 & 29	A WALK TO REMEMBER 12:05, 2:20, 4:35, 6:50, 9:05, 11:20	MAGKAPATID
5		MURDER BY NUMBERS		MONSTERS BALL 10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20	MONSTERS BALL
6		THE SUM OF ALL FEARS			
7		MAGKAPATID			

POWER PLANT CINEMA

Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41

A WALK TO REMEMBER - GP 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50	SUM OF ALL FEARS - P13 1:40,4:20, 7:00,9:40	SCOOBY -DOO - GP 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00
MONSTERS'S BALL - R18 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00	SCOOBY -DOO - GP 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00,	SUM OF ALL FEARS - P13 11:30,2:10, 4:50,7:30, 10:10

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MRT stations: North Avenue, Quezon Avenue, GMA Kamuning, Cubao, Shaw, Ortigas, Guadalupe, Magallanes at Taft

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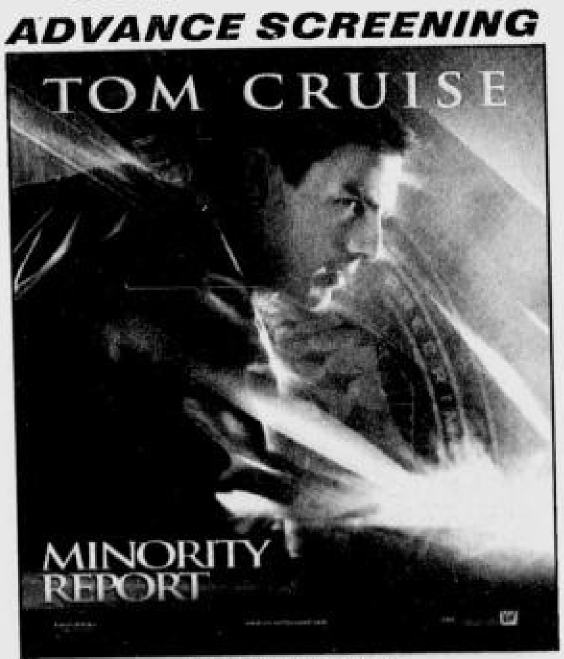
SM CINEMA

ADVANCE SCREENING



TOM CRUISE

MINORITY REPORT

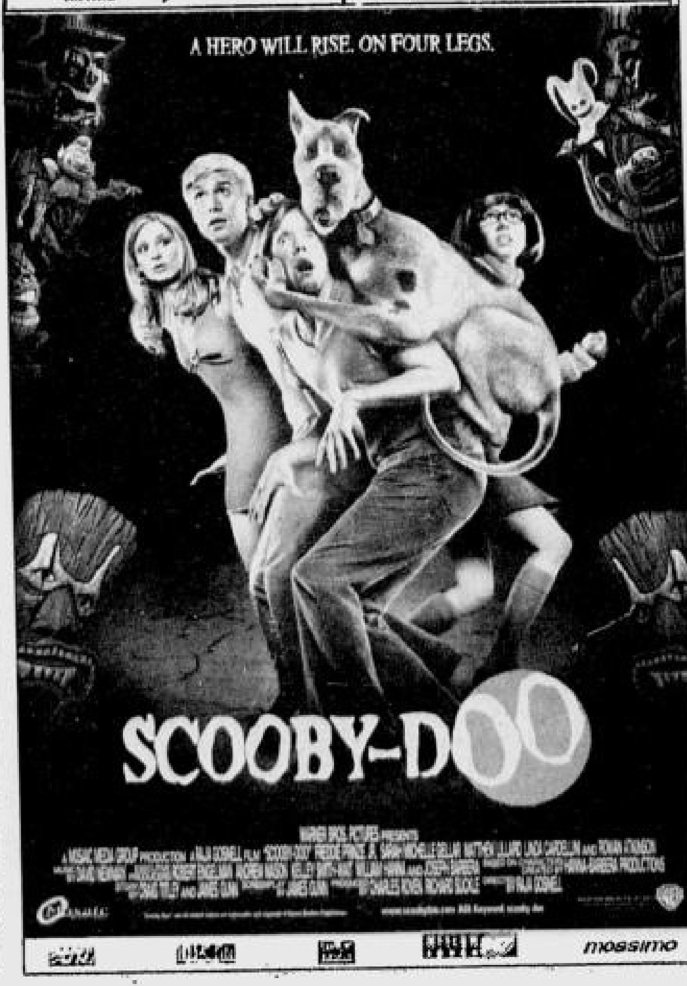
MTRCB RATING: PG13
Children below 13 years old should be accompanied by an adult.

Invitational Press Screening
on June 20, 2002 • 7:30 pm
SM Megamall Cinema 1

Regular showing on June 26 at the SM CINEMAS.
Simultaneously shown at
SM Pampanga • Iloilo • Cebu • Davao

NOW SHOWING !

MTRCB RATING ▸ GP GENERAL PATRONAGE | ALL AGES ADMITTED



A HERO WILL RISE. ON FOUR LEGS.

SCOOBY-DOO

mossimo

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CHRISTOPHER DE LEON DINGDONG DANTES

NO.1

Pinupuri ng mga kritiko
Pinipilahan ng mga tao!

RECORD-BREAKING CERTIFIED BLOCKBUSTER HIT!

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SHARON CUNETA JUDY ANN SANTOS

MAGKAPATID

DIRECTED BY JOEL LAMANGAN

FUJIFILM

SHOWING NA NATIONWIDE!

'Millionaire' airs new episodes

"WHO Wants To Be a Millionaire," the country's favorite game show, returns with all-new episodes starting 9 tonight on IBC-13.

The Viva-TV production had been airing replays since a fire gutted the studio in Parañaque, where the show was being taped last April.

A new set was soon built at Big Fun City on the Marikina Riverbank Center in Marikina City and it is from this place where the show will be airing.

Hosted by the country's leading dramatic actor, Christopher de Leon, "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" first went on the air in the Philippines last Nov. 13, 2000. The unique structure of the show instantly made it a big favorite among viewers.

The biggest winners so far are Sharon Cuneta, who played for her favorite charities last Christmas Day and Arnelita Lopez-Forbes, who bagged a million pesos each.

"Who Wants to be a Millionaire" has at stake the grand prize of P2 million. Contestants who come from all over the country are also provided with free transportation, room at the Grand Boulevard Hotel and other goodies.

"Who Wants To be a Millionaire" airs Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 9 p.m. and Sundays at 8 p.m.

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING
EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	DISKARTE
2 (SDDS)	MAMASAN
3 (DTS)	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
4 GOLD (DTS)	STAR WARS
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	A WALK TO REMEMBER
6 GOLD (SDDS)	DRAGONFLY
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	RESIDENT EVIL
8	SUPER B
9	MAGKAPATID
10	MAGKAPATID

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	DISKARTE
2	MAMASAN
3 (DTS)	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	KILABOT AT KEMBOT

Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3274

1	DISKARTE
2	MAMASAN
3	I THINK I'M IN LOVE

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	DISKARTE
2	MAMASAN
3	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SUPER B
5	MAGKAPATID

METROPOLIS star
tel 850.4285

1	CASS & CARY
2	MAMASAN
3	DISKARTE
4	MAGKAPATID
5	SUPER B
6	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
7	
8	

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) TEL. 751-2010 TO 13

1 JUNE 18 & 19 "SUM OF ALL FEARS"

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	MAGKAPATID
2	STAR WARS

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515

1	SUPER B
2	MAGKAPATID
3	

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	SUPER B
A	MAGKAPATID

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
2	SUPER B
3	MAGKAPATID
4	UTANG NI TATANG

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	DISKARTE
2	
3	
4	DISKARTE
5	MAMASAN
6	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
7 (DTS)	SUPER B
8 (SDDS)	MAGKAPATID
9 (DOLBY)	UTANG NI TATANG

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	DISKARTE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	DISKARTE
2	MAMASAN
3	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
4 (SDDS)	SUPER B
5	DISKARTE
6 (DOLBY)	MAGKAPATID
7 (DTS)	MAGKAPATID
8	CASS & CARY
9	KILABOT AT KEMBOT

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	
2	
3	
4	SUPER B
5 (SDDS)	MAGKAPATID
6	DISKARTE
7 (DOLBY)	MAMASAN
8	I THINK I'M IN LOVE

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	DISKARTE
2	MAMASAN
3 (DTS)	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
4	SUPER B
5 (SDDS)	MAGKAPATID

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	MAGKAPATID

Sampaquita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	DISKARTE

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	MAMASAN
Lords	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
Jennet	UTANG NI TATANG

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	DISKARTE
2	MAGKAPATID
3	SUPER B

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	DISKARTE
2	MAMASAN
3	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
4	MAGKAPATID
5	SUPER B

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

FRC Cinema
Talaba Bacoor Cavite

1	UTANG NI TATANG
2	DISKARTE

Berma
tel 879.2029

1	DISKARTE
2	MAMASAN

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	
2	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
2	DISKARTE
3 (DTS)	MAGKAPATID

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	DISKARTE
2 (DTS)	MAGKAPATID
3 (DOLBY)	SUPER B
4	I THINK I'M IN LOVE

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
2 (DOLBY)	MAGKAPATID
3 (DTS)	DISKARTE
4	SUPER B

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
2	MAGKAPATID
3	PANIC ROOM
4	

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
2	SUPER B
3 (DOLBY)	PANIC ROOM
4 (DTS)	MAGKAPATID

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	DISKARTE
2	MAMASAN
3	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
4 (DTS)	MAGKAPATID

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	DISKARTE
2	MAGKAPATID
3 (DTS)	I THINK PM IN LOVE
4	SUPER B
5	DEATH TO SMOOCHY

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	MAGKAPATID
2	DISKARTE
3	I THINK I'M IN LOVE

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558

1	MAGKAPATID
2	DISKARTE
3	I THINK I'M IN LOVE

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	JIHAD WARRIOR
2	KLABOT AT KEMBOT
3	LIGAYA PANTASYA

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	
2	
3	

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	DISKARTE
2 (DTS)	MAGKAPATID

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2365

1	CLOSED

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
2	MAGKAPATID
3	DISKARTE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
2	CASS & CARY
3	MAGKAPATID
4	DISKARTE

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
2	SUPER B
3 (DTS)	MAGKAPATID
4	DISKARTE

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

THX
CMC INTERNATIONAL

PREMIERE NOW SHOWING

SM CINEMA
SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999
NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR
4173888

1	SUPER B
2	A WALK TO REMEMBER
3	SUM OF ALL FEARS
4	MONSTERS BALL
5	SCOOBY DOO
6	MAGKAPATID
7	DISKARTE
8	I THINK IM IN LOVE

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416

1	MAGKAPATID
2	SUPER B
3	SUM OF ALL FEARS
4	MONSTERS BALL
5	SCOOBY DOO
6	I THINK IM IN LOVE
7	A WALK TO REMEMBER
8	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
9	DISKARTE
10	MAMASAN

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1	SUPER B
2	A WALK TO REMEMBER
3	I THINK IM IN LOVE
4	SCOOBY DOO
5	SUM OF ALL FEARS
6	MAGKAPATID
7	SUM OF ALL FEARS
8	SCOOBY DOO
9	DISKARTE
10	MAGKAPATID
11	MAMASAN
12	MONSTERS BALL

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	SUM OF ALL FEARS
2	SCOOBY DOO
3	WALK TO REMEMBER
4	SCOOBY DOO
5	MONSTERS BALL
6	SUM OF ALL FEARS
7	DISKARTE
8	MAMASAN
9	MAGKAPATID
10	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
11	MAGKAPATID
12	SUPER B

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1	SUM OF ALL FEARS
2	MONSTERS BALL
3	SUM OF ALL FEARS
4	A WALK TO REMEMBER
5	SCOOBY DOO
6	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
7	MURDER BY NUMBERS
8	SUPER B
9	MAGKAPATID
10	SCOOBY DOO
11	DISKARTE
12	I THINK IM IN LOVE

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	SUPER B
2	MAGKAPATID
3	I THINK IM IN LOVE
4	DISKARTE
5	MONSTERS BALL
6	A WALK TO REMEMBER
7	SUM OF ALL FEARS
8	SCOOBY DOO
9	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
10	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
11	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
12	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888

1	I THINK IM IN LOVE
2	DISKARTE
3	SUM OF ALL FEARS
4	A WALK TO REMEMBER
5	MAMASAN
6	RESIDENT EVIL
7	MAGKAPATID
8	SCOOBY DOO
9	SUPER B
10	MONSTERS BALL

SM CITY CEBU
2313878

1	PANIC ROOM
2	SUM OF ALL FEARS
3	DRAGONFLY
4	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
5	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
6	MAMASAN
7	MAGKAPATID
8	SCOOBY DOO

SM CITY ILOILO
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1	CASS & CARRY
2	CLOSED
3	SCOOBY DOO
4	RESIDENT EVIL
5	SUM OF ALL FEARS
6	MAGKAPATID
7	CLOSED
8	LIGAYA PANTASYA ...

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	SUM OF ALL FEARS
2	SCOOBY DOO
3	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
4	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
5	DISKARTE
6	MAGKAPATID

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
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1	MAGKAPATID
2	SUM OF ALL FEARS
3	SCOOBY DOO
4	DISKARTE

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8820684

1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
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3	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	SUM OF ALL FEARS
2	SCOOBY DOO
3	MAGKAPATID
4	SUPER B

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1	SUM OF ALL FEARS
2	MAGKAPATID
3	MAMASAN
4	DRAGONFLY
5	CASS & CARRY
6	SCOOBY DOO

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2
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7	UTANG NI TATANG
8	A WALK TO REMEMBER
9	RESIDENT EVIL
10	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS

Ermita
536 -7809- 12

1	MAGKAPATID
2	MAMASAN
3	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
4	SUPER B
5	MAGKAPATID
6	UTANG NI TATANG
7	DISKARTE

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2	MAMASAN
3	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
4	SUPER B
5	MAGKAPATID
6	UTANG NI TATANG
7	A WALK TO REMEMBER
8	RESIDENT EVIL

Novaliches
935- 3229 - 30

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2	MAMASAN
3	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
4	SUPER B
5	MAGKAPATID
6	UTANG NI TATANG
7	A WALK TO REMEMBER
8	RESIDENT EVIL

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2	MAMASAN
3	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
4	SUPER B
5	MAGKAPATID
6	UTANG NI TATANG

Bacolod
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1	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
2	MAGKAPATID
3	RESIDENT EVIL
4	DEATH TO SMOOCHY
5	PANIC ROOM
6	SUPER B

Iloilo
336- 8077 - 78

1	JIHAD WARRIOR
2	MAGKAPATID
3	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
4	SUPER B
5	PANIC ROOM
6	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS

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2	SUPER B
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5	MAGKAPATID
6	MAGKAPATID

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Take the plunge!
Nestea

CELEBRITY VOLLEYBALL ROSTER. (clockwise, standing) DWLS-FM DJ John Hendrix, Hans Montenegro, Paolo Bediones, PBA's Paolo Trillo, Paulie Yllana, Sandman of 96.3 WRock, James Yap of Summer Place, Chin-Chin Gutierrez, Hey Jude's Jude Lee, 89.9 Magic TM's Krystal, Isabel Granada and Miriam Quiambao.

MINUS THE GLITTER AND GLAMOUR. The celebrity teams prepare for the volley storm on the beach court.

Celebrities play ball in Boracay, and clean up the beach, too

By Leah Salterio

EVERY SUMMER, Nestea gathers celebrities to play beach volleyball. As in previous years, Boracay hosted to the tournament this year, the sixth year of the event.

The merry month of May saw Paolo Bediones, Miriam Quiambao, Isabel Granada, Chin-Chin Gutierrez, Hans Montenegro and Paulie Yllana playing the game on the Boracay beach court, with PBA anchorman Paolo Trillo, DJs Krystal of Magic 89.9, Sandy of 96.3 WRock and John Hendrix of 97.1 DWLS-FM.

A large afternoon crowd endured the sweltering heat to get a glimpse of the star players. They clapped, cheered and screamed as they rooted for their favorite teams.

The celebrities also attracted attention in Boracay's hip night spots. In the Nestea Plunge party in Club Bazzurra, they joined media people in the "Race to the Plunge" game, similar to cable TV's "Amazing Race."

Isabel Granada and Paolo Trillo led their teams in performing tasks assigned to them at various points on the beach. The first one to reach Club Bazzurra won a cash prize.

The two teams, however, clocked exactly the same time and ended up splitting the P10,000 prize.

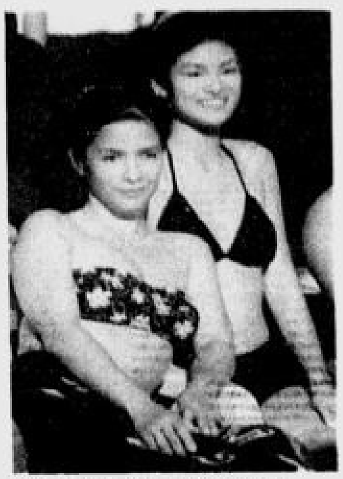
The end of the game was the cue for the party to begin. DJs John Hendrix of DWLS and Sandy of WRock hosted the bash that started with games like limbo rock and Nestea drinking contest.

After the quarterfinals on the second day of the competition, Nestea hosted another party at Summer Place. Ten of the best bartenders in Boracay displayed their skills in whipping up new Nestea concoctions in the Cool Cocktail Bartending Competition.

The Latino group Arriba Arriba provided the samba music. The sexy Tomadoras group of girls danced while bartending a la "Coyote Ugly."

Last May 10, before the games, Boracay Mayor Ceceron Cawaling with Boracay Association of Scuba Diving Schools president president Mike Labatiao and Nestea brand man

CELEBRITIES/A24



BEACH BABES. Chin-Chin Gutierrez (left) and Miriam Quiambao in summer eye-popping wear.

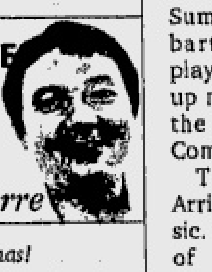
BEACH CLEANUP. "Unang Hirit" host Lyn Ching and Nestea brand manager Jojo de la Cruz do their part.

KILLER SERVE. Hans Montenegro waits for his turn.

FOAM PARTY. Celebrities and guests dance the night away at Club Bazzurra.

Boob tube booboos

VIEWFINDE



Nestor U. Torre

HOST: I hear you have a new film showing now. How is it doing at the box office?

Film star: Ok *lang*. To all the people that watched it, keep watching!

(Duh!)

* * *

Host: Do you think this particular contestant has outstanding talent? What is your advice to him?

Judge: Definitely, he has talent. To him, I just want to say, keep trying to constantly improve, *at mahaba ang iyong mararating!*

(*Ay, mahaba!*)

* * *

Quizmaster: We have a winner! As for the losing contestant, don't be too disappointed.

Constestant: No, it's Ok.

Quizmaster: That's the spirit! Ok *lang na natalo ka, kasi* happy *naman ang* love life *mo!*

(Huh?!)

* * *

Host: How did the troopers finally catch up with the band of terrorists?

Guest: It was the result of a lots of hard work and intelligence, after days and nights of painfully tracking the terrorists!

(*Ay*, painfully!)

* * *

Host: What do you like in particular about the designs of this fashion designer?

Guest: What I like in particular is that they are so fashionlike!

(Talk about damning with faint praise!)

* * *

Host: What new methods do you plan to use to fight the drug menace?

Guest: One of the moves we are studying at the moment is the use of drug-sniffing canine dogs!

(-As opposed to what other kinds of pooches?)

* * *

Host: What are the rules you have enforced in your nature resort?

Guest: It's important of silent!

(*Ano daw?*)

* * *

Host: If you were to choose one place to take your foreign guests to in our country, where would it be?

Guest: Oh, Guimaras—*punitunta sila sa pinakamasarap na mango sa Pilipinas!*

Host: Aside from mango, what special treat does Guimaras island have to offer tourists?

Guest: Sunrise and sunset!

(*That* special, huh?)

* * *

Host: What do we need to do to finally get our act together as a people?

Guest: That's just it—stop acting, and act!

(Wow, that's so *deep!*)

* * *

Quizmaster: What do most people wear to sleep at night?

Contestant: Long Sleeves!

(That's so—comfortable!)

* * *

Host: Why did you use blonde highlights on the hair of your model?

Hairstylist: *Kasi*, it blends with her light reflection, *e.*

(Reflection? Reflection?—Oh, you mean *complexion!*)

New 'Friends' on Star World

THE NEW season of "Friends" on Star World (7:30 and 11 p.m., five nights a week) still stars **Jennifer Aniston, Courteney Cox Arquette, Lisa Kudrow, Matt LeBlanc, Matthew Perry** and **David Schwimmer**.

Some of these sitcom stars have successfully launched stellar movie careers, so what has made them stick to "Friends" after all these years?

Well, the money's really good, and keeps going up from year to year. But the major attraction for them remains the big boost that the show has been to their careers—for which they're properly, loyally grateful.

To keep the sitcom's ratings high, a number of guest stars have been tapped to appear in special episodes this season. They include **Elliot Gould, Hank Azaria, Jason Alexander, Susan Sarandon, Denise Richards, Winona Ryder, Kathleen Turner, Gary Oldman** and **Morgan Fairchild**.

How it was to be young and foolish

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

SEEING how famous and successful the stars are makes you wonder if they ever had to endure the day-to-day pressures of school life.

Did everything come easy for them?

It's a pity that some college graduates end up jobless or simply have to contend with a job that does not even pay half as much as what a celebrity makes. Be that as it may, we should all strive to bloom where we are planted. Instead of turning green with envy, we can always look for greener pastures as long as we have learned our lessons in school, life and love really well.

Read on and get an insight of what campus life was like for some of the celebrities today, as they share the craziest things they did in school and the best lesson they learned.

Maybe their anecdotes will somehow chase your "back to school blues" away as you realize that someone so famous was once a struggling student, too.

With the right attitude, you can turn your school days into school daze.

Korina Sanchez: "In school I learned to understand the attitude of every individual and how to be independent. The naughtiest thing I did was to cut classes sometimes."

Pia Guanio: "We were known as *elitista* for unfair reasons. We were only three in the group and we hang out with each other most of the time. The rest didn't like that. Could we help it if we loved each other that much?

"The craziest thing I did in class was to lick and throw Gummi up the ceiling so that it would stick and fall on the next person to seat on the chair.

"Best lesson? It pays to be nice to your teachers."

Eric Quizon: "I was just one of the regular dudes. Quiet. Neat. However, I was very popular because I happen to be **Dolphy's** son. Actually, I was a teacher's pet.

"I never did a prank on my own. It was a collective effort. Once the entire class shouted something nasty to a teacher and made her cry. Nobody admitted who started it, so the whole class got suspended."

"To be a man for others is the best lesson I learned in school. Delicate life lessons are learned at home, not in school. One thing I learned on my own was how to love. It wasn't taught but I learned it."

Cheryl Cosim: "I was known as Ms Late or Ms Absent, in other words 'Ms Sing' (Ha! Ha! Ha!). Would you believe I had 48 absences when I was in fourth year high school?

"I used to pick on lower batches. I take a bite from their sandwiches when they pass by. Trip *lang!*

"I learned good values from the nuns, although it wasn't in school where I learned how to deal with boys. I had to learn that elsewhere."

Ogie Alcasid: "I was referred to as the guy who sang the national anthem every morning and the guy who impersonated **Rico J. Puno**.

"My *barkada* and I used to get a kick out of drawing a dot in the middle of the blackboard, and every time the teacher would go past the dot, we would all shout 'pow!' Sort of like 'TV Pow' before.

"In school I learned the real meaning of discipline and responsibility."

Princess Punzalan: "I was known to be 'sipsip' to our homeroom adviser who was also our Pilipino teacher because I was a disciplinarian as the class president."

Albert Martinez: "I was super shy and quiet. I didn't hang around with the popular guys.

"Friendship, reality and maturity are the three most important things I learned in school.

"Skipping (Citizen's Action Training) so we could watch Rio Locsin's movies was just about the most stupid thing I've done as a student!"

Bobby Yan: "I was **Francis Magalona** because in our batch, there were **Kuya Germs** and **Jestoni Alarcon** look-alikes, too. I was also called Bumsy for Bumbay because I was dark.

"The most mischievous thing I did on campus was to stick Haw Flakes (with my saliva on it, ha ha!) on people's backs just for the heck of it.

"The lesson I value the most was to learn how to learn, and more importantly, how to make a cheat sheet out of chalk. High school was a piece of cake."

As *pour moi*, I was teased to no end by my classmates for being "Inday Badiday's" daughter and, during break time, I would regale them with my show biz inside stories. I even brought still pictures of the hit movies back then.

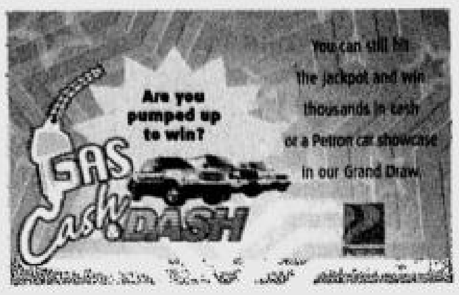
The whole class "hated" me when **William Martinez** and **Gabby Concepcion** were my dates during a school party (they were at the height of their popularity then.) The next day, everyone gave me the cold-shoulder treatment.

One valuable lesson I learned in school is "never cram!" If you don't know it by exam day, there's no way you'll know it in five minutes flat. You should always be a few steps ahead of your teachers so they end up being the one surprised and not you!

One of the craziest things I did (my pranks are too many to mention though) was to pretend I was sick so I could sleep in the clinic all afternoon.

Ahh! To be young and foolish and to be older and even more foolish!

For feedback, e-mail *friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com.*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Battle for PLDT control shifts to Tokyo

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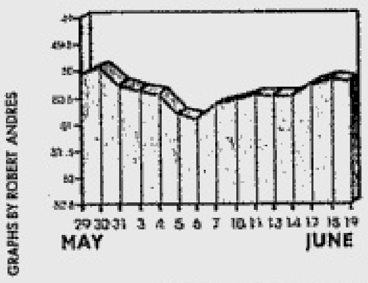

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As of 5 p.m., June 19, 2002

¥ 124.26 = $1
As of 5 p.m., June 19, 2002

GOLD: $321.30/321.80
per ounce Hong Kong, June 19, 2002

STOCK MARKET

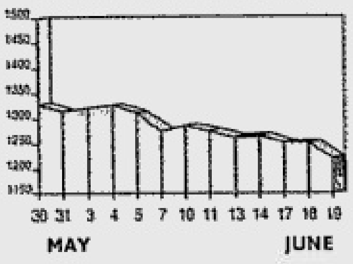
Shares down 2.4%

SHARES closed 2.4 percent lower yesterday to a five-month low on concerns over a widening budget deficit, domestic politics and the security situation in the south, brokers said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell 30.23 points to 1,220.34. It was its lowest since Jan. 17 when the index closed at 1,214.10.

Signs of renewed economic activity failed to buoy sentiment, dealers said. The government said April imports rose 19.7 percent year-on-year to $3.224 billion. *AFP*

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Doris C. Dumlao

TOP officials of First Pacific Co. Ltd. have flown to Tokyo to engage Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. president Manuel Pangilinan's group in a boardroom showdown over a deal-breaker resting with Japan's Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp.

Persons familiar with the situation said First Pacific dispatched Anthoni Salim, second son of its majority owner Seodono Salim, and its executive director, Ronald Brown, to Tokyo to discuss with NTT officials First Pacific's decision to relinquish its controlling stakes in PLDT and Bonifacio Land Corp. to tycoon John Gokongwei Jr.

First Pacific and the Gokongwei group earlier agreed to form a $925-million joint venture that will control 24.47 percent of PLDT and 50.4 percent of Bonifacio Land.

Salim and Brown are expected to engage a group led by Pangilinan, who flew to Tokyo yesterday to secure NTT's support for a bid to block the Gokongwei group's entry into PLDT and Bonifacio Land.

Pangilinan, who chairs First Pacific and flagship property arm Metro Pacific Corp., is at the center of the boardroom fight for control of PLDT and for the key Metro Pacific asset.

Next to First Pacific, NTT is the second biggest stockholder in PLDT with a 15-percent stake. It also has the right of first refusal, which, if exercised, could foil the Gokongweis' takeover bid.

Sources have said the PLDT board, which opposed the deal as being financially detrimental, is working on a counteroffer.

Yesterday, JG Summit president Lance Gokongwei dared Pangilinan to come out with his counteroffer to his family's $925-million bid for First Pacific's controlling stake in PLDT and Bonifacio Land.

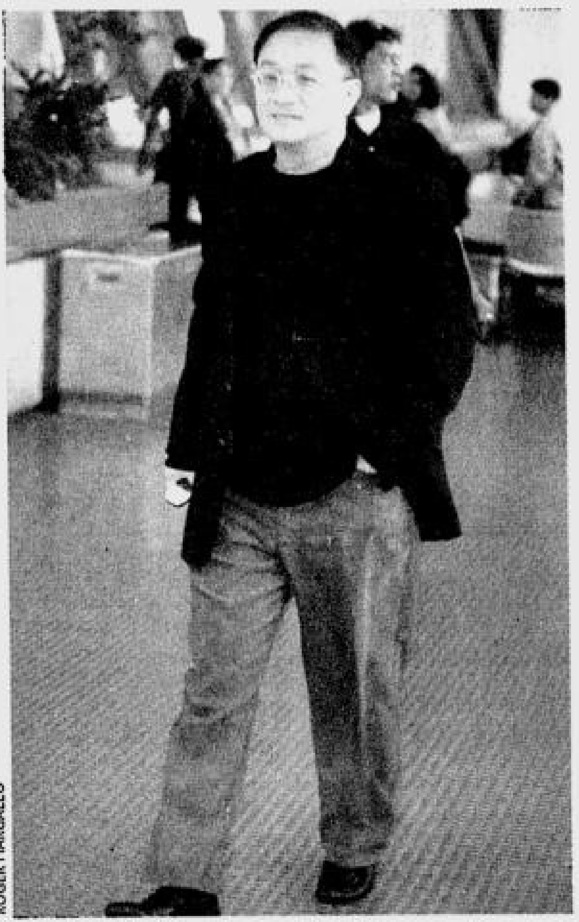
In an interview with the INQUIRER, Gokongwei pointed out that amid the torrent of news reports concerning the opposition to the Gokongwei-First Pacific deal, Pangilinan has yet to announce how much his group was willing to pay for First Pacific's telecommunication and property assets.

Gokongwei said: "We announced our offer more than two weeks ago. A lot of people have been asking me to comment on Pangilinan's counteroffer but I always ask them: Where is their (Pangilinan group) offer?"

He said it was about time for all interested parties to lay down their cards and just push for what was in the best interest of both PLDT and Bonifacio Land.

As this developed, a top PLDT official claimed that First Pacific might have put itself in a deep hole by accepting Gokongwei's offer. The official said Gokongwei's offer contained two key conditions—completion of due diligence of PLDT within 30 days from the

BATTLE/ B2


ROGER MARGALLO

EMBATTLED PLDT president Manuel V. Pangilinan passes through the pre-departure area of the Naia before boarding his flight bound for Tokyo.

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NAZARENO

No timeframe for Smart IPO

SINGAPORE—Smart Communications Inc., the highly profitable cellular unit of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT), said yesterday it had no plans to go public in the near term.

"That has been discussed, but we have no timeframe at this point," Napoleon Nazareno, Smart's chief executive officer, told reporters on the sidelines of the CommunicAsia trade show.

Under the terms of its operating franchise, Smart is required to list via an initial public offering (IPO) by 2004, 10 years after its commercial start-up.

"Smart has a healthy balance sheet at this point and we are more or less prepared for it already, but it depends if the equity market is conducive for it and if our investment plans require us to do so," Nazareno said.

PLDT—the largest telecoms firm in the Philippines and a unit of Hong Kong's First Pacific Co. Ltd.—said in May it has not considered a public offer for Smart, countering a local newspaper report that management planned to float up to a third of its unit's outstanding shares ahead of schedule next year.

Nazareno said PLDT's plan to sell a minority stake in Smart to meet upcoming debt obligations, announced last November, has been shelved after recent successful fund-raising efforts, including a $350-million international bond offering in April.

"PLDT has put the selling down of a portion of Smart on the back burner," he added.

PLDT is facing a possible ownership change after First Pacific and the Gokongwei family entered into an agreement to form a joint venture that would own the Hong Kong conglomerate's 24.47-percent stake.

Smart contributed the lion's share of PLDT's first quarter income, with P1.13 billion out of the group total of P1.3 billion.

Nazareno said Smart, which has more than seven million subscribers, would see "considerable" customer growth this year.

"But growth this year will not be as much as last year, when we almost doubled our subscriber base," he said, adding that Smart started the year with less than six million subscribers.

"Smart will continue to remain a major growth driver for PLDT," he said, noting that wireless revenues accounted for more than 35 percent of PLDT's group sales. *Reuters*

PSE board approves new commission rule

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BOARD of the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday approved the introduction of a minimum commission rate in lieu of the existing "negotiated" system to boost the profitability of the battered stock brokerage industry.

PSE corporate secretary Francisco Villaroman told reporters that the board had approved a minimum of 0.25 percent for all PSE trade transactions based on a proposal submitted by the strategic development committee of the bourse.

However, the PSE said the new measure, which would be implemented in view of the cutthroat competition in the stock brokerage industry, would still have to be ratified by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

"Brokers will be prohibited from charging a commission that's too low," Villaroman said. "It's not beneficial to the public if brokers are not making money."

The new scheme is based on a proposal submitted by local brokerage house ATR Kim-Eng Securities which, in turn, cited similar practices in the stock exchanges of Thailand, Hong Kong and Malaysia.

A report by the strategic development committee, which endorsed ATR Kim Eng's proposal to the board, said that the introduction of such a commission rate system in Thailand in mid-January this year had brought about positive results. It said the new scheme promptly reversed the losses of most brokers into profitability during the first quarter of the year.

"Profitable brokers do not have to beg for subsidies but can now focus on improving their infrastructure and enhancing value added services to their clients," a memorandum to the PSE board from the strategic development committee said.

"Brokers will now compete in terms of quality service, research, execution and online capability," it added. "This will be beneficial to the investing public, thereby increasing the volume of informal trades from both institutional and retail investors."

The PSE board also agreed to impose sanctions on brokers who will not comply with the minimum rate system. For first-time violators, the PSE will slap a fine of not more than P2.5 million and/or suspension of not more than five consecutive business days.

Second-time violators will be slapped with a fine of not more than P5 million and/or a 10-day suspension.

PLDT, Netopia sign Internet access agreement

By Abigail L. Ho

INDUSTRY giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. recently signed a partnership agreement with Netopia Computer Technology Inc., the shared Internet and network gaming services arm of ePLDT, for the provision of high-speed broadband Internet access to Netopia's customers.

Under the agreement, PLDT will provide the 40 Netopia Internet cafes all over the Philippines with broadband Internet access using digital subscriber line or the always-on Internet access.

"Our customers can now enjoy the ultimate broadband experience that PLDT offers. We want to give them the best that technology can give us. With fast and reliable connections to the Internet, we satisfy most of our customers' needs," Netopia president Raymond Ricafort said in a statement yesterday.

With the agreement in place, Netopia's customers would now be able to download at faster speeds.

Netopia has 33 branches in Metro Manila, including those in Quezon City, Pasig, Marikina, Cainta, Las Piñas and Manila. It also has a branch in Lucena and in Cebu and five in Cavite.

Battle for PLDT control shifts to Tokyo

From page B1

announcement of the deal (June 4) and direct representation in the PLDT board—that First Pacific was unlikely to fulfill in view of Pangilinan's successful delaying tactics.

The PLDT official claimed that in the fine print of the Gokongwei-First Pacific deal, the Salim financial conglomerate would have to pay the taipan hefty penalties for failing to meet these conditions within the specified time frame. The PLDT official said Gokongwei would get a windfall from the deal whether it pushes through or not while First Pacific would only compound its woes if the deal breaks down.

Lance Gokongwei declined to comment on whether the deal carried with it penalties for non-delivery of commitments. Gokongwei stressed that the deal was a legally binding agreement.

However, Gokongwei clarified that the allotted schedule for the due-diligence study would begin when his firm's lawyers and accountants start going through PLDT's books and not on the day of the announcement of the deal.

Gokongwei said that First Pacific and the Gokongwei group have yet to discuss board representation in PLDT and that his group had no plans of getting into the board during the stockholders' meeting. "We haven't bought shares of PLDT yet so why should we insist on sitting in the board now?"

Gokongwei said that their offer would still depend on the results of a due-diligence audit of PLDT. "We're not the type who would put $600 million into a company with our eyes closed."

Pangilinan, with the backing of PLDT chair Antonio "Tonyboy" Cojuangco, maintained his grip on the PLDT board during the recent annual stockholders' meeting. First Pacific had reportedly plotted to strip off Pangilinan's right to vote the Hong Kong firm's stake in PLDT in order to carry out the conditions stated in the Gokongwei-First Pacific deal.

Pangilinan likewise obtained unanimous board approval to prevent Gokongwei from undertaking a due-diligence study on PLDT citing the company's by-laws that explicitly prohibit competitors from peeking into its books and operations.

Gokongwei is the owner of Digital Telecommunications Corp., the country's second largest landline operator that also has firm plans of expanding to mobile telecommunications.

The Gokongwei group is also trying to iron out a $260-million debt dispute involving subsidiary Digitel and a group of Japanese firms led by NEC Corp. to dampen the snowballing opposition to its entry into PLDT.

According to confidential NEC briefing papers obtained by INQUIRER, Digitel is trying to hammer out a new rescheduling deal involving a supplier's credit extended by NEC in 1995 known as the NX2 project. However, NEC is insisting on the immediate payment as well as the inclusion of a chattel mortgage in the contract.

The documents indicated that the original amount was $259.39 million, which had a back-up guarantee of up to 60 percent from three other Japanese trading companies—Itochu, Sumitomo Corp. and Kanematsu. The loan likewise carried a 57-percent guarantee from JG Summit Holdings Corp. The claim, however, has ballooned to $330 million including interests, other sources said.

Digitel director Lance Gokongwei declined to comment but he insisted that the company was on good terms with NEC despite reports to the contrary.

It was earlier reported that NEC, the biggest supplier of Japan's Nippon Telegraph and Telephone, was strongly lobbying against the Gokongweis' entry into PLDT due to the latter's non-settlement of the supplier's credit.

In 1999, NEC had agreed to reschedule principal payments so that amortization would start on April 2001 on condition that no further rescheduling would be accepted. However, the Japanese firm was upset that Digitel again tried to seek concessions starting September last year.

Digitel proposed a new rescheduling for an additional three-year grace period with the revised installment payment to be completed in 2010, the documents showed. It said Digitel pointed to lack of cash flow and slow receipt of interconnection charges from PLDT and other companies.

The documents indicated that NEC was dismayed over the Gokongwei group's "take it or leave it" stance in settling these debts. As such, NEC was considering to declare the loan as officially in default.

However, an official from the JG Summit group yesterday said the NEC loan had not been declared in default.

The briefing paper warned that an official default would drag along other telecom companies where Digitel has interconnection receivables such as PLDT, Bayan Telecommunications and Eastern Telecommunications Philippines Inc.

NEC said it believed Digitel had enough cash flow to make payments without delay.

"In case of a default, NEC will request three Japanese trading firms, (Itochu, Sumitomo and Kanematsu) to implement the guarantees and pay NEC. It will make these three companies cautious to do business in the Philippines," the NEC paper said.

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Wednesday, June 19, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco De Oro Univ. Bank	20	20	20	20	1,060,500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	52	52.5	50	50.5	2,760,900
China Banking Corp.	630	630	630	630	650
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	36	36.5	35	35	124,900
First E-Bank Corp.	1.68	1.68	1.68	1.68	15,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	36.5	37	35	35	316,600
Philippine National Bank	36	36	34	34.5	326,400
Security Bank Corp.	14	14	14	14	53,600
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1085	1095	1085	1095	690
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5	11,400
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.78	0.78	0.72	0.72	6,520,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	640	640	635	635	1,600
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.036	0.036	0.036	0.036	1,000,000
Piltel	0.39	0.39	0.35	0.35	3,900,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	412.5	412.5	392.5	392.5	171,380
Ivantage Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.38	0.38	90,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.016	0.016	0.014	0.015	67,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	22.75	22.75	22	22	14,700
Manila Electric Co. B	34	34	32.5	32.5	622,600
Petron Corp.	1.72	1.72	1.7	1.7	2,057,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.6	1.64	1.6	1.64	175,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.18	1.2	300,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.44	2.44	2.36	2.36	938,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	50,000
William, Gothong & Aboiti	2.26	2.26	2.26	2.26	9,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Union Cement Corp.	0.7	0.71	0.7	0.7	2,000,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	2,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.75	13.5	13.75	375,200
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	33.5	33.5	33.5	33.5	279,500
RFM Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	531,000
San Miguel Corp. A 236.500	48	48	48	47.5	48
San Miguel Corp. B	56	56.5	56	56.5	416,100
Universal Robina Corp.	4.6	4.6	4.55	4.55	83,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	100,000
Ayala Corp.	5.4	5.4	5.1	5.1	3,713,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.3	2.32	2.3	2.32	1,066,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	50,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	5,000,000
ATN Holdings, Inc.	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.55	137,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	10,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	1,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.51	0.52	0.5	0.5	8,590,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	10,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	190,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.28	1.28	1.26	1.26	230,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	22.75	22.75	22.25	22.25	314,300
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	50,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	100,000
Ionics Inc.	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	9,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.66	1.66	1.66	1.66	108,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.77	0.77	0.75	0.75	5,910,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.3	0.3	7,110,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.79	0.79	80,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	40,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3.95	3.95	3.95	3.95	2,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	400,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.085	0.085	2,000,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Metro Alliance Holdings-B	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	20,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.58	0.6	0.58	0.6	400,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	1,000,000
Pryce Corp.	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	1,000,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	8.7	8.7	8.5	8.5	45,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	480,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	30,000
Manila Jockey Club	10	10	10	10	2,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	25.5	25.5	25	25.5	268,000
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	780	780	780	780	200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.75	10.5	10.75	600
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	4,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.1	6.1	5.7	5.7	16,005,000
Cityland Development Corp.	2.02	2.04	2.02	2.02	352,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	30,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	600,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	200,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.55	2.55	2.48	2.48	3,608,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.08	0.08	1,300,009
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.5	5,063,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	1.36	1.36	1.36	0.36	140,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines Inc.	0.035	.035	.033	.033	9,300,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.205	.205	.205	.205	250,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.21	.21	.21	.21	290,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0036	.0036	.0036	.36	1,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.003	.003	.003	.003	2,000,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0032.0032	. 0032		.0032	8,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.16	.16	.16	.16	10,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.04	.04	.04	.04	2,100,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	4,661,240	193,800,300.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	279,820,708	378,505,631.50
PRO	27,158,000	131,145,780.00
Mining	12,980,000	633,450.00
OIL	10,110,000	111,200.00
GRAND TOTALS :	334,729,948	704,196,361.50

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	491.04	DOWN 13.95
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,701.24	DOWN 29.76
PRO	519.65	DOWN 17.59
Mining	1,265.27	UP 2.98
OIL	1.21	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	719.81	DOWN 8.72
Composite	1,220.34	DOWN 30.23

NO. OF ADVANCES: 12; NO. OF DECLINES: 39; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 36;
NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 87 NO. OF TRADES: 2,061

CURRENCIES

June 19, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.051193	1.000000	50.2310
Japan	Yen	0.008456	0.008044	0.4041
United Kingdom	Pound	1.566698	1.490400	74.8643
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.134779	0.128215	6.4404
Switzerland	Franc	0.677446	0.644454	32.3716
Canada	Dollar	0.680516	0.647375	32.5183
Singapore	Dollar	0.586440	0.557880	28.0229
Australia	Dollar	0.591223	0.562430	28.2514
Bahrain	Dinar	2.788459	2.652661	133.2458
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.280311	0.266660	13.3946
Brunei	Dollar	0.586113	0.557569	28.0072
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000122	0.000116	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.024922	0.023708	1.1909
UAE	Dirham	0.286210	0.272272	13.6765
Korea	Won	0.000862	0.000820	0.0412
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.951300	47.7848
Argentina	Peso	0.302067	0.287356	14.4342
Brazil	Real	0.391505	0.372439	18.7080
Denmark	Kroner	0.134613	0.128057	6.4324
India	Rupee	0.021501	0.020454	1.0274
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.276667	0.263193	13.2204
Mexico	New Peso	0.108549	0.103263	5.1870
New Zealand	Dollar	0.510883	0.486003	24.4124
Norway	Kroner	0.134967	0.128394	6.4494
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017520	0.016667	0.8372
South Africa	Rand	0.102568	0.097573	4.9012
Sweden	Kroner	0.110247	0.104878	5.2681
Syria	Pound	0.020511	0.019512	0.9801
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.030990	0.029481	1.4809
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000862	0.000820	0.0412

Imports jump 20% to 5-yr high in April, fan hopes of recovery

By Doris C. Dumlao

IMPORTS jumped nearly 20 percent in April to a five-year high, surprising economists and raising hopes for an early recovery in the trade sector.

"Imports are up for the third straight month. It's probably a decent sign for the growth outlook," said Jojo Gonzales, research head of Philippine Equity Partners Inc.

Imports in the Philippines are seen as a leading indicator for exports, as many electronic components to produce finished goods are purchased abroad.

The National Statistics Office said imports for April reached $3.224 billion, up 19.7 percent from $2.693 billion in April 2001 and also up 12.4 percent from March 2002.

According to NSO data, April imports were the highest since October 1997 when they reached $3.414 billion.

The trade surplus for the first four months dropped 35 percent from the same period last year to $549 million and the April monthly deficit expanded to $475 million against a $447 million deficit in April 2001.

"I wouldn't worry about that (35 percent drop in trade surplus). What is more significant is the pick up in activity, especially in electronics imports which are to be used as inputs for production," said S&P/MMS economist David Cohen in Singapore.

"We thought that it would be closer to flat year-on-year. It's been an encouraging sign for future exports," Cohen said.

"On the year-on-year basis, the low base of last year should see imports continue to remain in double digit growth range for the rest of the year," said Song Seng Wun, regional economist at G.K. Goh Securities in Singapore.

Economists noted higher fuel costs and imports of infrastructure equipment, such as telecommunications, boosted April imports.

NSO data showed telecommunications equipment and electronic machinery imports jumped 32.04 percent from a year ago and 5.22 percent from a month ago. Petroleum crude imports were up 85.32 percent from March, although down 7.04 percent from April 2001.

Song also noted a hint of recovery in domestic spending with imports of consumer goods up 7.56 percent from March, although they were still down 7.06 percent from April 2001.

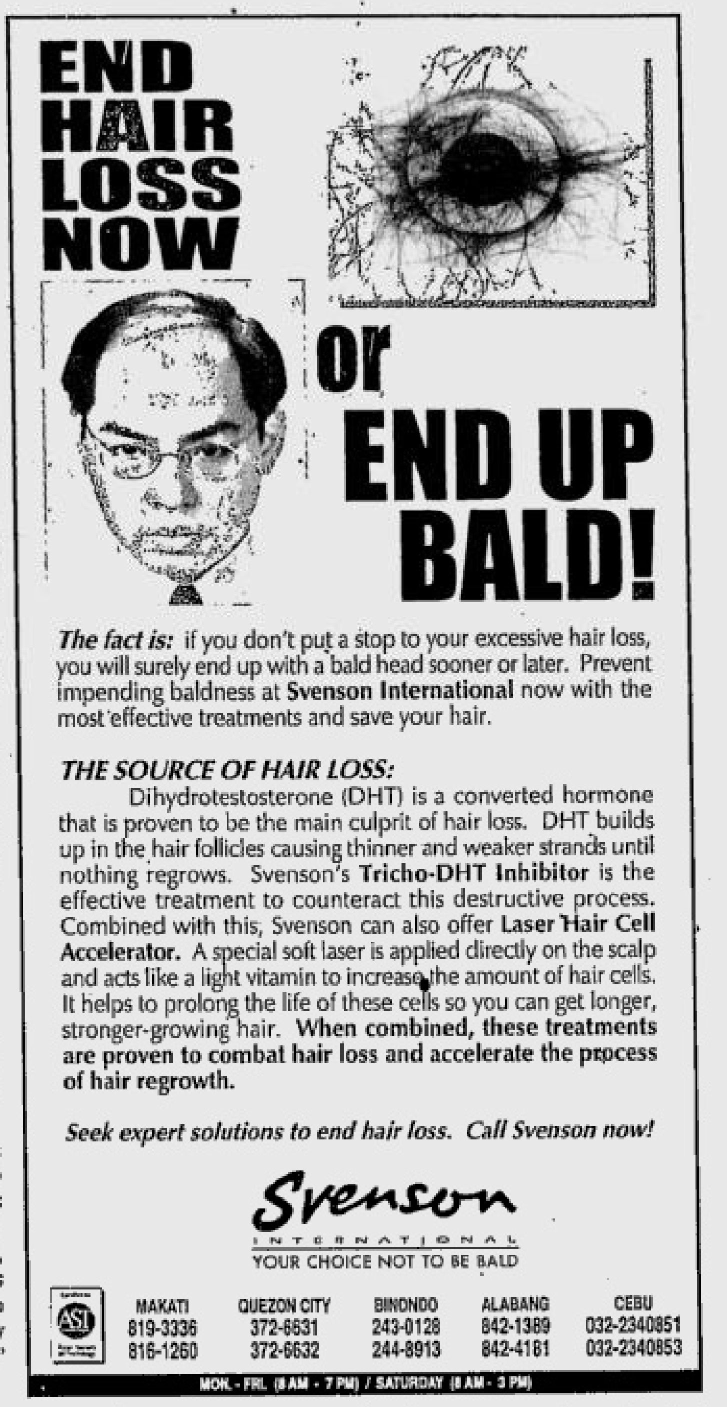
"It's not a rip-roaring return of consumer demand, because government's revenue collection has not been meeting target, so it's still contracting, but the rate of (annual) contraction is narrowing," Song said.

Economists noted the surge in April imports may be partly due to manufacturers taking advantage of the stronger peso which made imported goods cheaper.

The peso hit highs of 49 to the dollar in early May, against levels of around 51 at the beginning of April as Asian regional currencies benefited from the dollar's overall weakness.

Gonzales at Philippine Equity Partners said his firm had projected a 2.5-percent growth in exports and 6-percent import growth this year.

"Our growth forecast is relatively low, so I'm pretty confident those can be achieved. But I actually think you will see a gradual recovery in exports continue to unfold and the government's target of a 4-percent (export growth) is probably fair," he said. ***With a report from Reuters***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MON. - FRI. (8 AM - 7 PM) / SATURDAY (8 AM - 3 PM)

Gov't seen cutting spending to meet deficit goal

BUDGET Secretary Emilia Boncodin said yesterday the government would most likely cut back on its expenditures to meet its budget deficit target this year of P130 billion.

Boncodin told reporters the Bureau of Internal Revenue was not expected to recover from the shortfall in collections in the first four months of the year.

"It is almost certain that I will have to implement expenditure cuts. But what the magnitude is and where, we have not done that yet," she said.

"I think it is going to be extremely difficult for BIR to recover the (revenue) shortfall in the first four months," Boncodin said.

The government posted a budget deficit of P82.694 billion in the first four months of the year, around 64 percent of the full-year target.

The BIR hit only 58 percent of its target in the first four months of the year.

Other sources in the inter-agency Development Budget Coordination Committee said the BIR, which missed its first quarter target by P12.88 billion, would likely see the shortfall rise further to P25 billion for the full year.

The Bureau of Customs is also expected to incur a shortfall of around P10 billion for the full year on account of the peso's depreciation and a slowdown in imports.

Since February, however, the country's import bill has been expanding due to increased shipment of electronics.

Last year, the DBCC scaled down the BIR's revenue goal by P20 billion, allowing the agency to over-perform in relation to the new targets.

By next week, the DBCC is set to review the fiscal program for the remainder of the year to firm up a strategy to contain the government's deficit at P130 billion by the end of the year.

"I suppose by now, since it is already June, we'll have some idea on what the collections of the BIR and the BOC will be. We have to finalize the numbers and determine how much cuts we will need to make and where," Boncodin said.

PBCom set on expanding network

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE PHILIPPINE Bank of Communications is in discussions to acquire branches of existing banks and enter into the "bancassurance" (banking-insurance) business.

In a news briefing following an annual stockholders meeting, PBCom president Isidro Alcantara said the bank was set on expanding its network to 100 branches from 64 and augment its deposit base by a quarter.

The bank is reportedly close to sealing a deal to acquire at least 15 branches of an existing bank.

PBCom, a publicly listed medium-size commercial bank, is also holding exploratory discussions with one or two insurance companies for a "bancassurance" tie-up, Alcantara disclosed.

He said the bank was approached by some insurance companies, but it was being careful about offering non-bank products.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has allowed banks to offer non-bank products, including insurance policies, to customers within their premises.

Alcantara predicted that PBCom's profit would post a slight growth this year, while loans would increase by 10 to 15 percent.

He said loan growth would come from PBCom's traditional client base consisting of the middle-income market.

He said the bank had been effectively managing its costs, and manpower had already been reduced by 12 percent to 1,061.

Branch expansion, he said, would allow the bank to use its existing manpower to reach more people.

PBCom also has undertaken an automation program wherein its branches, or retail side, will be automated by September, and the entire bank, including loans and others, will be fully automated by the end of the second quarter of next year.

URC sets aside $20M in capex

UNIVERSAL Robina Corp., food arm of the Gokongwei family, is seen spending over $20 million to cover its capital expenditures in its next fiscal year beginning this October.

URC president Lance Gokongwei said the money would be used primarily to complete a flour mill by July next year.

The flour mill is expected to boost URC's capacity by 500 tons a day.

For this year, URC has set aside some P3 billion for its capital expenditures, of which P1 billion will cover for its plastic packaging facility in Batangas.

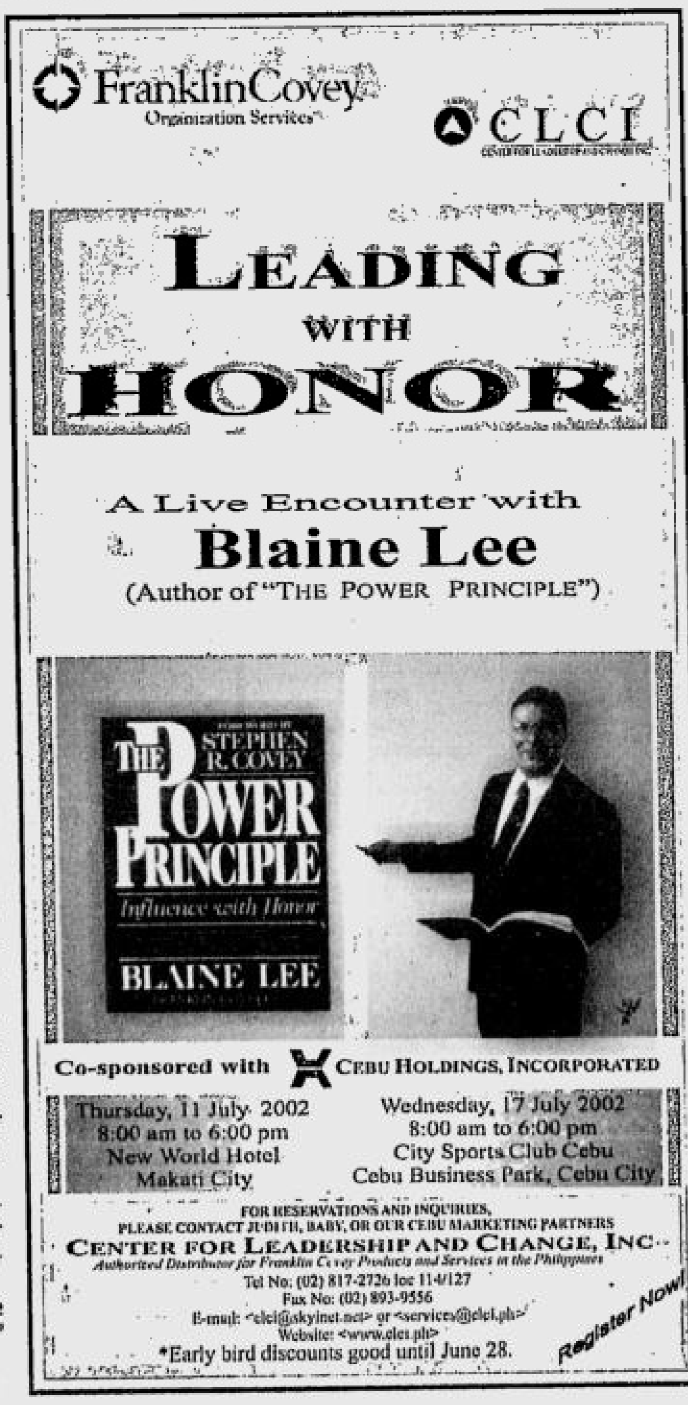
Gokongwei said the plastic packaging plant was scheduled to open this October.

With a production capacity amounting to 18,000 tons a year, the new plant will double current production of bioxially oriented polypropylene.

The additional capacity will be used for export to other countries.

"It will make us the No. 1 (producer)," Gokongwei said.

Elena R. Torrijos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When: Wednesday, 26th June 2002, 12:30 PM - 5:00 PM
Where: Makati Shangri La Hotel, Ballroom A&B

A brief bio of the speaker, Mike Kozee

Mike is a Development Executive with Apple Computer in the Atlanta office serving on the Mac OS X team which focuses on Mac OS X adoption and migration for Print, Design, and Web Publishing Markets. Mike has been with Apple just short of three years. As a point of distinction, he was awarded "DE of the Year 2001" at last year US Sales Conference.

Prior to Apple, Mike worked for Radius of Mountain View, CA as an East Coast Regional Sales Manager for seven years. Radius was a manufacturer of software and peripherals for Macintosh creative in design, print, and video markets. Prior to Radius, Mike was employed as an Apple Products Marketing Manager in the southeast for Inacom, a large computer reseller and systems integrator.

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NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given that Metrobank Stock Certificates Nos. 6032 & 106098 issued to JOSE NG CHUA were lost
(PDI-June 20, 27 & July 3, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
SENATE

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

(Reference: Admin Order No. 001, s. 1988)

The SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES is inviting interested bidders for the following projects:

PROJECT DESCRIPTION	REQUIREMENTS
PROJECT A - INSTALLATION OF LOCAL AREA NETWORK (LAN) WITH AT LEAST 170 NODES & 256 kbps LEASED LINE OR WIRELESS BROADBAND INTERNET CONNECTION	1. Company must be in the industry for at least 2 years 2. Must have successfully implemented a minimum of 150 nodes in a similar project 3. Must have a working capitalization of Php 5 million 4. Must have at least 3 in-house Certified Networking Engineers and full time manpower complement of at least 15 technical and customer support personnel 5. For internet connection: ISP must be in the industry for at least 2 years, with multiple E1 connections and redundant links to the internet (preferably with a T3 or OC3 connection), and with full time manpower complement of at least 15 technical and customer support personnel
PROJECT B - DESIGN, DEVELOPMENT, INSTALLATION, AND IMPLEMENTATION OF LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION SYSTEM (LIS)	1. Company must be in the industry for at least 2 years 2. Must have successfully developed and implemented a document management software based application system, and with reference site 3. Must have a working capitalization of Php 10 million 4. Must have a full time manpower complement of at least 15 technical and customer support personnel
FOR BIDDERS JOINING BOTH PROJECTS A & B	1. Must have a working capitalization of Php 15 million

Prospective bidders may secure briefing paper and prequalification requirements from the PBAC Secretariat Office located at Room 401, 4/F, Senate of the Philippines, GSIS Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City from **June 21 to 28, 2002**. Deadline for submission of duly accomplished prequalification documents shall be on **July 5, 2002**. Incomplete prequalification requirements will not be entertained. All applicants shall be notified on the result of the prequalification proceedings. ONLY PREQUALIFIED BIDDERS SHALL BE ISSUED THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) AND RELATED DOCUMENTS FOR BIDDING.

Bidders shall be required to post a bidder's bond equivalent to ten percent (10%) of the total bid price in the form of cash, manager's check, cashier's check or surety bond. All surety bonds must be callable on demand. Late bids will be rejected.

THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS OR ANY PART THEREOF WITHOUT OFFERING ANY REASON, WAIVE ANY DEFECTS CONTAINED THEREIN AND ACCEPT THE OFFER MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE GOVERNMENT, AND THE RIGHT TO CONFISCATE THE BID BOND AND/OR PURSUE APPROPRIATE LEGAL ACTION SHOULD THE WINNING BIDDER REFUSE TO ACCEPT THE AWARD.

FURTHER, THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES ASSUMES NO OBLIGATION WHATSOEVER TO COMPENSATE OR INDEMNIFY THE BIDDER FOR ANY EXPENSE OR LOSS THAT THEY MAY INCUR IN PARTICIPATING TO THE UNDERTAKING NOR DOES IT GUARANTEE THAT AN AWARD WILL BE MADE.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. ARNEL JOSE S. BAÑAS**
Chairman, Prequalification, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI – June 18, 19 & 20, 2002)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

Republic of the Philippines
Local Civil Registry Office
Province of Pampanga
Municipality of Arayat

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of R.A. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that MR. MARIO V. CAPATI has filed with this Office a petition for Change of First Name from "Oscar" to "Mario" in the birth certificate of Oscar Binuya Capati, whose parents are Aurelio Capati and Lusia Vinuya.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition to this Office not later than June 21, 2002
(PDI - June 20, 2002)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late ANDREA C. BELTRAN was extrajudicially settled to her only heir ESTRELLA C. BELTRAN -LASAM as per doc# 275 page #56 book# 694 series of 2002 before notary public Jose S. Padolina of Q. C. PDI 6 /6,13,20 2002

The heirs of Nella D. Paglinawan, deceased executed an extrajudicial settlement entered as Doc. No. 184, Page No. 37, Book 66 Series 2002 Notarial Register Atty. Jose L. Sta. Ana.
PDI-June 6, 13 & 20, 2002

PUBLIC NOTICES

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen.

Republic of the Philippines
BOARD OF INVESTMENTS
Industry & Investments Building
385 Gil J. Puyat Avenue
Makati City
Fax No. 8954021
Tel. Nos. 8976682
8901332

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of **JIH PRIME MANAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT CORP.** with office address at Victory Compound, 713 Rizal Avenue, Extension, Grace Park, Caloocan City for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as amended, as New Operator of Hotel (Economy Class Hotel) at a capacity of 57 rooms and with project site at Baguio, Benguet has been officially accepted on June 13, 2002 and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

Issued this 13th day of June 2002

(Sgd.) FRANCISCO C. CHAVEZ
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI -- June 20, 2002)

NOTICE OF LOSS

TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATES WITH NOS. 005183 & 006070 BEARING THE NAME OF PACIFIC TRADERS & MANUFACTURING CORP.

(PDI--June 20, 2002)

EURO NOTES, LONG-TERM DEBT PAPERS

Benpres fails to meet interest payments

PHILIPPINE conglomerate Benpres Holdings Corp. said it would not make interest payments on its $150 million worth of euro notes that fell due yesterday, and has appointed Credit Suisse First Boston to advise it on a repayment plan.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, Benpres corporate secretary Enrique Quiason said the company also failed to pay interest payments to holders of its long-term commercial papers worth P2 billion due on June 17.

"In lieu of such interest payments and any other payments under the long-term commercial papers and euro notes, Benpres has recently made proposals in relation to interest payments and principal repayments," Quiason said.

"Benpres has appointed Credit Suisse First Boston as its financial adviser in connection with the plan," he said. The company did not provide further details.

Benpres, whose interests include media, power generation and distribution, water and property, said earlier that it was rescheduling all its debts, amounting to almost $600 million, in a move designed to restore the company's financial health.

It also planned to sell non-core assets to boost its cash position and to suspend new investments in order to trim costs.

Benpres posted a net loss of P10.251 billion in 2001, weighed down by poor performances at key subsidiaries.

Credit Suisse First Boston, which is advising the company on the debt rescheduling, has said preliminary discussions had been held with creditors and a formal plan would be presented to them later this month.

Benpres has direct debts of around $189 million and indirect debt through subsidiaries of $407.8 million.

Benpres shares closed down one centavo at 50 centavos. The main index slid 2.42 percent or 30.23 points to 1,220.34 points.

Its failure to make the interest payments does not put Benpres in default until a bondholder writes to the company declaring it in default. As of 4:30 p.m. yesterday, Benpres has not received any written declaration of default.

A formal declaration of default by a bondholder can trigger cross defaults on the obligations of the company. This will make the company's obligations due and demandable ahead of the maturity date, a banker said. That means bondholders need not wait for maturity before they can demand for payment, he added.

The banker, however, said that many of the major bondholders of Benpres were Philippine banks. These banks, he said, would be reluctant to declare the company in default because the move would only increase their already huge non-performing loans. ***Reuters with a report from Elena R. Torrijos***

REGION'S PRIDE

Rediscovering Ilocos' white gold, golden corn

By Cristina Arzadon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BUSINESS FEATURE

NANA Rosa's famous chichacorn

PAOAY, Ilocos Norte—"Are you buffing up for a cockfight?"

That's the running joke among townsfolk in Paoay to anyone caught holding a bag of the ubiquitous *chichacorn* (*cornick* or fried and salted corn kernels).

The joke is probably meant to explain the Ilocanos' addiction to the golden corn, otherwise useful to gamecocks as supplementary diet.

But whoever developed the addiction first—the chicken or the boss—doesn't really matter. To *cornick* producers in Ilocos, the craving of one is as good as the other.

By a stroke of fate, enterprising villagers in this town have started changing the face of their community to an emerging business hub that could very well spark a new life to the ubiquitous garlic—Ilocandia's "white gold."

If garlic has been known as the Ilocanos' "white gold," then corn must be their "seed of fortune."

Supply glut

In 1997, Ilocos Norte was the biggest garlic producer in the Ilocos comprising 89 percent (or 11,713 metric tons) of the region's 13,097 metric tons of garlic produced. The region, on the other hand, accounted for 67 percent of the total volume of garlic production in the country.

But the native garlic is losing its flare among local farmers due to a glut of the imported variety mainly from Taiwan that are flooding the local market at rock bottom prices.

A garlic situationer produced by the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics noted that the influx of imported garlic has contributed to the fluctuating garlic prices in the market.

These conditions apparently led farmers to lose their grip on garlic farming as time passes.

Garlic production shrunk from 11,713 metric tons in 1997 to only 7,568 metric ton two years ago, with a record low production of 3,040 metric tons in 1999.

'Nana Rosa'

But while garlic producers are facing rough times, businessmen have found a redeeming value in the pungent crop as a major ingredient in the production of *cornick*.

And while in this town, you might as well forget about the nightspots because all roads these days lead farther elsewhere courtesy of "Nana Rosa," whose name has become the buzzword among tourists going to this area.

The experience of Rosalina Abrojena, whose *chichacorn* brand "Nana Rosa" was derived from her name, typifies any success story in the business.

"There's no telling why more tourists prefer our *cornick*. Maybe it cracks better than the others. Some say our *cornick* has a distinct aroma. Well, I only use native garlic," Abrojena says, noting that other producers go for the Taiwan variety because they can cut down on the garlic ingredients to at least 50 percent.

The Taiwan garlic may be thrice as much bigger than the native variety but the latter remains the best among all the varieties in the market.

From tricycles to flashy cars and sports utility vehicles, motorists take a more than a kilometer ride from the town center to reach Barangay Salbang where most *cornick* (*chichacorn* to others) producers are based.

At least two other family-based enterprises in Paoay—Ilocos Chichacorn and Namnama Cornick—probably produce the crunchiest *cornick* in the region but any tourist will tell you there is nothing like the crispy Nana Rosa *chichacorn*.

Gold mine

Abrojena, whose family was into farming, stumbled on her gold mine in 1990. Back then, their corn harvest was good enough to produce *binatog* (boiled sweetened corn).

But she could hardly break even from the income she derived from the backbreaking chore of sitting around the market all day selling *binatog*. She made it big by revising her product into a crispy corn snack.

Her community's addiction to *cornick* soon rubbed on to neighboring towns and down to the region's Asian tourists, the Taiwanese, who form her steady market throughout the year.

With 23 international flights arriving at the Laoag International Airport at any given week, who knows where else has Nana Rosa's *cornick* gone?

On any given day, 15 sacks of Nana Rosa's fried *chichacorn*, if not consumed locally, find their way to other outlets in neighboring provinces like Ilocos Sur, Pangasinan and Baguio City.

Abrojena, along with her 15 regular workers who are mostly family members, tried to satisfy Metro Manila's hunger for *cornick* but the quantity of their product was no match to the demand of the metropolis.

Metro Manila market

Abrojena's *cornick* debuted in Metro Manila when it was displayed at the National Trade Fair's food sector exhibit in 1998.

"We had to turn down orders coming from our Manila outlets because we can hardly meet the demand locally," said Abrojena's daughter, Merculia, who acts as marketing manager.

At 57, Abrojena is the company manager but she prides herself of being the company's workhorse too.

"Never mind if I get baked under the sun. My aging body needs more sunlight anyway," she says while helping her workers spread stacks of sun-dried corn that blanketed half of the village's road.

Based on their monthly gross sales, Abrojena has a take-home pay of close to P42,000 a month or P1,388 daily.

Steady supplies

"Our *cornick* are selling like hotcakes. We don't even have to advertise. Our market has expanded in no time through word of mouth," Merculia says.

Thanks to these endorsements, Abrojena's gross sales for the last five years have steadily grown to an average of P500,000 yearly.

Abrojena has built a storage house equivalent to a modest bungalow so that she can stock up on her raw materials, mainly corn and garlic.

Stocking up of previously sun-dried corn would ensure that their business would not be disrupted during the wet season, normally the lean period for *cornick* producers who are unable to continuously dry their corn harvest.

But Abrojena did not forget to share her blessings to her fellow villagers.

Farmers in the village are her steady suppliers of raw materials. Her husband grows corn and garlic in their own farm too, but they always end up on a shortfall due to the heavy demand.

Of course, the Abrojenas are living comfortably in their own bungalow that was built out of their earnings from the business.

Gov't urged to resist open skies deal with US

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE FEDERATION of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry Inc. yesterday urged the government to follow the lead of Japan, Hong Kong, South Pacific islands and the United Kingdom in resisting an open skies policy with the United States.

The federation, through its research arm Fiber, said the Philippines' dilemma on whether to implement an agreement to open its air routes with the United States next year was not just "a local concern."

It noted that both the Hong Kong and Japanese governments rejected the US overtures for an open skies policy because of fears that it would inflict more harm than good to their economies.

The federation noted that airline giant British Airways had likewise called for a properly structured open skies agreement that would secure genuine benefits for British aviation and consumers. It said the UK has continued to resist an open skies regime with the United States.

It said the 14-member Association of South Pacific Airlines (Aspa) also warned that liberalizing the aviation market would threaten its members who could be driven out of business by foreign airlines disinterested in subsidizing the vital economic and social needs of isolated island states.

In the Philippine case, the federation claimed that Cebu Pacific and other fledgling carriers would have great difficulty competing in an open skies regime and in penetrating the US market. It said industry leader PAL was not ready for unregulated competition because it was still undergoing rehabilitation and that it would face unfair competition from the heavily subsidized operations of American airlines.

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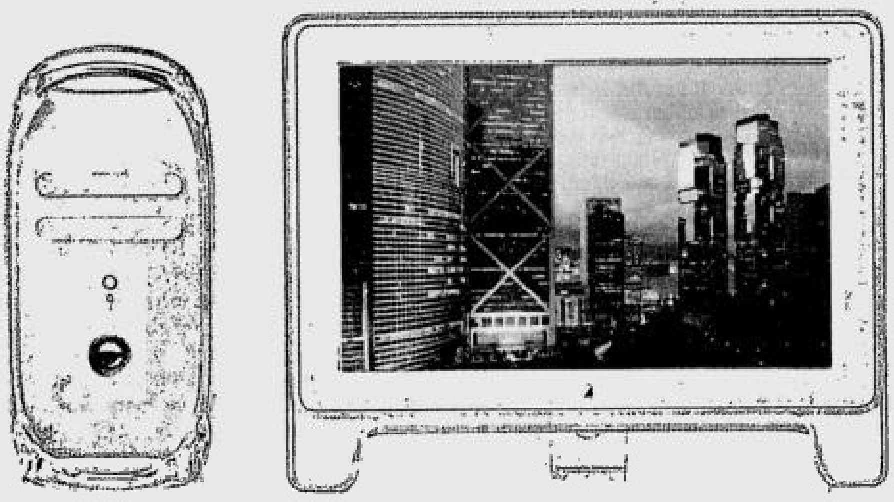

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Per TI NCR Permit No.2084 Series of 2002

People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Ko wins 1st SM Bowling Cup

SAMMY KO, a manager at the Sunstar Lending Corp., was the Grand Prize winner in the recently concluded First SM Bowling Cup tournament held at the SM Bowling Centers.

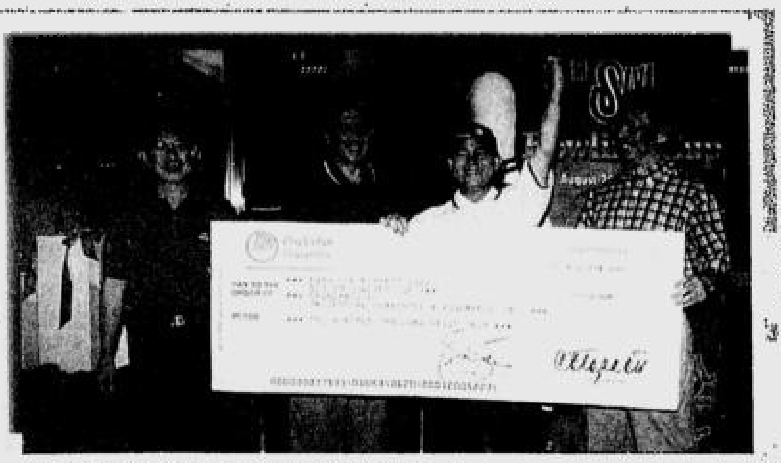
Winning the title, which comes with a P100,000 prize and a trophy, was quite a feat for Ko, who bested over 300 contestants during the tournament's nine-month run. Bowlers first competed in the Center Finals held at the SM Bowling Centers in SM City North-Edsa, SM Megamall, SM City Fairview, and SM City Cebu. 99 Center Finals winners then competed for the National Finals in May, from which five top bowlers the advanced to the step-ladder finals.

Edward Coo, son of two-time world champion Bong Coo, was the first runner-up, winning P50,000 and a trophy in the process. Francis Orena of Cebu won P25,000 as second runner-up.

It was a double win for Lito John Dizon, who not only won the third runner-up slot and P15,000, but also scored a perfect game to win P100,000 from Prudential Guarantee. Rounding up the top five was Johnny Dai of SM City Cebu, who won P10,000.

Other winners included Ramon Ong from SM City North-Edsa, sixth place, Mai Mai Javier from SM Megamall, seventh, Ana Lily Lao from Cebu, eighth, lawyer Bernard Hernandez, 9th, and Jericho Jumapao from Cebu, 10th. They each won P10,000 in cash and a trophy.

Pepsi, Prudential Guarantee and Assurance Corp., Nature Spring, and Adidas sponsored the First SM Bowling Cup. The tournament has become so successful that the Second SM Bowling Cup will be launched July 7 this year at all SM Bowling Centers.



PERFECT Game winner Lito John Dizon from North Edsa receives P100,000 from Prudential Guarantee.

ANA Lily Yao from Cebu placed 8th during the First SM Bowling Cup. She is awarded by Camaligan and SM's Art Razote and a trophy and P5,000 cash.

SM Bowling Cup's first runner-up Edward Coo with Yu and Camaligan.

CEBU'S Johnny Dai placed second in the Grand Finals

FIRST SM Bowling Cup grand prize winner Sammy Ko with Pepsi's Felix Yu and SM's Ric Camaligan.

CFBC MEETS IMMIGRATION COMMISSIONER

Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo (center) recently met with Chinese Filipino Business Club president Aw Peng Lam (right) and executive vice president Daniel Laogan following reports of an alleged shakedown by corrupt immigration agents who went around extorting money from Chinese businessmen in Manila's Chinatown. Having received the reports, Domingo immediately ordered an investigation into the incident and warned foreign nationals not to entertain any invitations from Bureau of Immigrations agents unless they carry mission orders duly signed by her. Complaints against erring personnel of the Bureau can be relayed to her office through hotlines connected to the bureau's internal affairs division. The hotlines are 527-3260 and 527-9087.

DIETHER, PIZZA HUT PARTNER ANEW

Diether Ocampo signs up another year with Pizza Hut. At the signing ceremony, Diether served up the new American Classic, a whopping 14-inch authentic American pizza with three flavors: jampacked with toppings New York, meaty masterpiece Texas (Diether's personal favorite) and tropical treat Hawaii. Together with Diether during the contract signing were Pizza Hut officials (from left) BBDO/Guerrero Ortega account manager Rovin Pilar, ad and promo manager Henry Chua, VP for operations Rose Herrera, and marketing consultant Grace Magno. The New American Classic is now available at all Pizza Hut branches nationwide.

US EMBASSY PAVILION

The Commercial Service of the Embassy of the United States of America signed a contract agreement with Trade Information Marketing & Exhibitions Inc. recently. The US Embassy will have an embassy pavilion at AsiaFood Expo 2002, the 11th International Exposition on Food Processing, Packaging and Handling Machinery, Equipment and Technology from Sept. 4 to 7 at the World Trade Center Metro Manila. Signing the contract were Leonides Culzon, president of Trade Information Marketing & Exhibitions Inc. and George Ruffner, commercial counselor of the US Embassy. Witnessing the signing rites were (left) Annie Bersaluna, trade promotions director, Trade Information Marketing & Exhibitions Inc. and Cleo Alday, senior commercial specialist US Embassy. Trade Information Marketing & Exhibitions Inc. is the organizer of AsiaFood Expo.

NFWC launches gender dev't program

IN LINE with the recent pronouncement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo that the government is encouraging rural women to actively engage in rural development with micro businesses, the National Federation of Women's Clubs of the Philippines, now headed by Dr. Concordia M. Pascual, will launch its gender development program on June 20 at the Manila Hotel. The NFWC will sign a memorandum of understanding with Secretary Pat Sto. Tomas of the Department of Labor and Employment and Secretary Leonardo Montemayor of the Department of Agriculture.

Initiated by NFWC adviser Leonarda Camacho, the clubwomen will develop local economy by engaging in food processing with local fruits and vegetables, hand loom weaving with local materials, and basket production with local plants.

The activities will be supported by the DOLE and DA with the funds for gender development, when available. The clubwomen are even now registering their clubs with the Cooperative Development Authority for substantial capital.

Among the early groups are the Batanes Federation of Women's Clubs headed by Batanes board member Amada Fabi and supported by Rep. Butch Abad, the Tabuk Federation of Women's Clubs in the Cordilera Region headed by Sally Lammawin, wife of Tabuk mayor Camilo Lammawin, the Cebu City Federation of Women's Clubs headed by Cynthia Barrit, the Carmen Federation of Women's Clubs (a group composed of cultural minorities in Davao) headed by Jeaneth Mabanta, and the Baroy Federation of Women's Clubs in Lanao del Norte headed by Veronica Ong.

At the same launching, the NFWC, with Dr. Emilio T. Yap as guest of honor, will unveil a historical marker at the Manila Hotel. To assist Yap are Dr. Danilo Manalang, executive director, Dr. Mely Almosara, assistant executive director, and professor Ambeth Ocampo, board chair, National Historical Institute, and Dr. Concordia M. Pascual.

The first general convention of the NFWC was held at the Manila Hotel on Feb. 5, 1921.

Clips

15th RCD on derma technology

THE PHILIPPINE League of Dermatologists takes pride in hosting, for the third time, the 15th Regional Conference on Dermatology. To be held from Nov. 12 to 16 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City, this biennial conference rotates among the five member countries of the League of Asean Dermatological Societies. The theme for this year's conference is "Developments and Directions in Dermatology". The conference will focus on the development and advances in concepts, procedures, techniques, drugs and equipment utilized by dermatologists around the world. An impressive faculty composed of world-renowned leaders in dermatological research and clinical practice will be on hand to provide an interesting and stimulating educational experience. For more information, call or visit the 15th RCD secretariat care of the Philippine Congress Organizing Center, second floor, Physicians' Tower, 533 UN Avenue, Ermita, Manila. Telephone numbers are 526-8103 and 522-0541.

Creative director bags PBBY prize

RUSSELL Molina, creative director of Publicis-AMA, bagged the 2002 PBBY Illustrator's Prize. The nationwide contest is open annually to all professional and aspiring illustrators, and is sponsored by the Philippine Board on Books for Young People (PBBY). Aside from Molina, five other illustrators emerged as finalists: Ma. Cristina Tulay (second prize), Jose Miguel Tejido (third), Camilo Quevedo (finalist), and Gilbert Daroy (finalist). Molina will receive his prizes during the formal PBBY awarding ceremonies on National Children's Book Day, July 16, at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. For more information, call Jen at 372-3548 to 49, fax 372-4204, or e-mail pbby@adarna.com.ph.

PMAP confab focuses on human capital

The 39th Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) National Conference, with the theme "Managing Transitions in the Age of Human Capital—Chasing Butterflies in an Open Garden" captures vividly the need to reenergize your thinking and realign business strategies in order to put up with the challenging times. Nindut-a Cebu—at the Waterfront Hotel Lahug from Sept. 25 to 27—is where it will all happen. The Conference will also be highlighted by the 26th PMAP Awards Ceremonies. For details, call the secretariat at 726-1581, 726-1588, or 726-1532, or e-mail pmap@pmap.org.ph.

AAAAA and Habitat for Humanity Philippines

IMAGE BUILDING

Advertising professionals from Image Dimensions Advertising Inc. get a respite from building brands. In cooperation with Habitat for Humanity, under the auspices of the 4As, and together with their colleagues in the industry, they turn to building houses for the needy. Shown are Image Dimensions volunteers and president Mitos Camahort (second from left), during a brief reprieve from laying hollow blocks. The volunteer work lasted one whole day.

JFINEX-JBF CENTER MOA SIGNING

Junior Finex officials, led by vice president-internal and liaison director Grace P. Tiongco (center), sign the memorandum of agreement together with The Governor Jose B. Fernandez Center for Banking and Finance officers executive director Felixberto U. Bustos Jr. (second from right) and Ma. Amora C. Manabat, associate director. Also shown are Jfinex chair Guilbert P. Aquitania and board of judges chair Edwin V. Fernandez as witnesses. Under the MOA, Finex and the JBF Center will jointly build the ICFC Test Bank of questions and guard its integrity.

PORRIDGE FOR STREETCHILDREN

JB Pallasigue, president of Compass Travel & Tours Corp. and a member of the Network of Independent Travel Agencies (Nitas), serves a bowl of porridge to some 25 streetchildren at Kuya Center for Street Children in Cubao, Quezon City. With him is the center's executive director Bro. Paul Murphy.

AN INDONESIAN Manulife Financial customer talks to a cashier as she pays a bill at the Manulife Financial office in Jakarta. Canadian authorities and a World Bank subsidiary have warned that Indonesia's shaky legal system is scaring away foreign investors after a court declared a local Manulife unit to be bankrupt. AFP

Japan's steel makers anticipate fresh demand in Southeast Asia

TOKYO—Major Japanese steel makers said Wednesday exports to Southeast Asia were rising on the back of fresh demand as economies in the region began to stir:

Kawasaki Steel Corp., No. 3 in the industry, said it expected exports in the six months to September to rise to around 50 percent of total steel product output from 45 percent last year.

"We are seeing fresh demand in South Korea and also other Southeast Asian countries," said Kawasaki spokesperson Ryusuke Chiyonobu.

"Also, (Japanese) companies are setting up factories there," he said.

South Korean steel plate maker Hyundai Hysco Co. Ltd. was absorbing a large portion of new exports, he said.

Sumitomo Metal Industries Ltd. said it had signed a deal with China Steel Corp. of Taiwan earlier in the year to provide 600,000 tons of slab steel from April 2002 to June next year, which would help boost exports to the region.

"Overall, the level of exports will remain the same as last year, but we are seeing a rise in those to Southeast Asia thanks largely to this contract," said company spokesperson Hirofumi Yamana.

Kobe Steel Ltd. said it too was seeing recovering demand in Asian markets.

"Over the past year, Japanese steel makers have reduced production and reduced inventories so the market is quite tight but demand is high and there is more of a need for steel products," said Gary Tsuchida, the company spokesperson.

Industry leader Nippon Steel Corp. saw steel exports accounting for more than 30 percent of total output in the first half to September, up from 26 percent last year, the Nihon Keizai Shimbun newspaper reported without citing sources.

A Nippon Steel spokesperson said they could talk about the report later in the day.

NKK Corp., Japan's second largest steel maker which will merge with Kawasaki under a holding company in September, forecasts its exports for the April-June period to increase 3 percent due to strong orders from Southeast Asia. *AFP*

Thailand says on track for 5% growth in exports

CHA-AM, Thailand—Thai Commerce Minister Adisai Bodharamik said on Wednesday the country was on track for a 5-percent growth in exports this year after a sharp contraction in 2001.

Adisai told reporters he expected the country to register a trade surplus of $400 million in May and of about $800 million for the first five months of the year.

Overall export growth would depend on performance in the second half of the year, he said.

"If Q3 and Q4 exports grow a lot we can reach 5 percent (export growth) easily," he said.

Thai exports contracted 6.9 percent in 2001 as Thailand's key markets in Europe, the United States and Japan faced economic slowdown. *Reuters*

Indonesia keeps hands off row over Manulife unit

JAKARTA—Indonesia declined on Wednesday to intervene in a dispute over a court decision to declare Canadian life insurer Manulife Financial Corp.'s local unit bankrupt despite calls from Canadian authorities for the government to overturn the ruling.

Jakarta's Commercial Court declared PT Asuransi Jiwa Manulife Indonesia—the country's fourth-largest life insurer—bankrupt last week for failure to pay a dividend in 1999.

Toronto-based Manulife, whose local unit posted a net profit last year of 75 billion rupiah ($8.7 million) and manages 3.1 trillion rupiah ($360 million) in assets—has denied the charge and is appealing the ruling at the country's Supreme Court.

John Manly, Canada's deputy prime minister and finance minister, phoned Indonesian Finance Minister Boediono to express concerns about the case, which revived investor worries about the country's corrupt legal system.

But Boediono said he was unable to act to overturn the ruling, despite his belief that Manulife's operations in Indonesia are financially sound.

"We have explained this to the Canadian envoy to Indonesia and to other Canadian officials," Boediono told reporters. "I hope this case won't hurt ties between the two countries." *AP*

Number of state firms in China drops

BEIJING—A total of 17,000 companies in China's vast state-owned sector went out of existence last year as part of a continuing process of painful economic reforms in the country, official figures showed Wednesday.

The 8.9-percent reduction in numbers compared to the end of 2000 was caused by bankruptcies, restructuring, mergers and sell-offs. Their disappearance left 174,000 state-owned enterprises remaining, Ministry of Finance figures showed.

Amid the massive cull of firms, profits in the state sector dropped just 0.8 percent to 281 billion yuan ($33.8 billion) from 2000, according to the statistics, published in the official China Daily newspaper.

In contrast, the tax revenue received from state companies jumped more than 25 percent to 668 billion yuan, the figures showed.

The reform of China's enormous and mainly inefficient state-run sector has been a key part of economic reform efforts in recent years, with tens of thousands of firms going out of business annually.

Even now, a vast number of small, inefficient state-run firms remain.

Wednesday's figures showed that 97 percent of all profits from the 174,000 companies came from just 9,000 firms.

State companies now face a still more urgent need to shape up following China's entry into the World Trade Organization late last year, which will bring greater global competition to domestic markets.

The human cost of the massive reform process was highlighted earlier this year when tens of thousands of laid-off workers took to the streets in cities around the country's ailing northeastern rustbelt.

The protests, which saw a number of labor leaders arrested, were among the most significant unrest to hit China in recent years. *AFP*

S. Korea central bank business poll bullish for Q3

SEOUL—South Korean manufacturers expect business conditions to turn more bullish in the third quarter, powered by brisk output and capital investment, a survey conducted by the central bank showed on Wednesday.

The Bank of Korea's business survey index for the third quarter climbed to 119, up from 103 for the same period last year, the bank said in a statement.

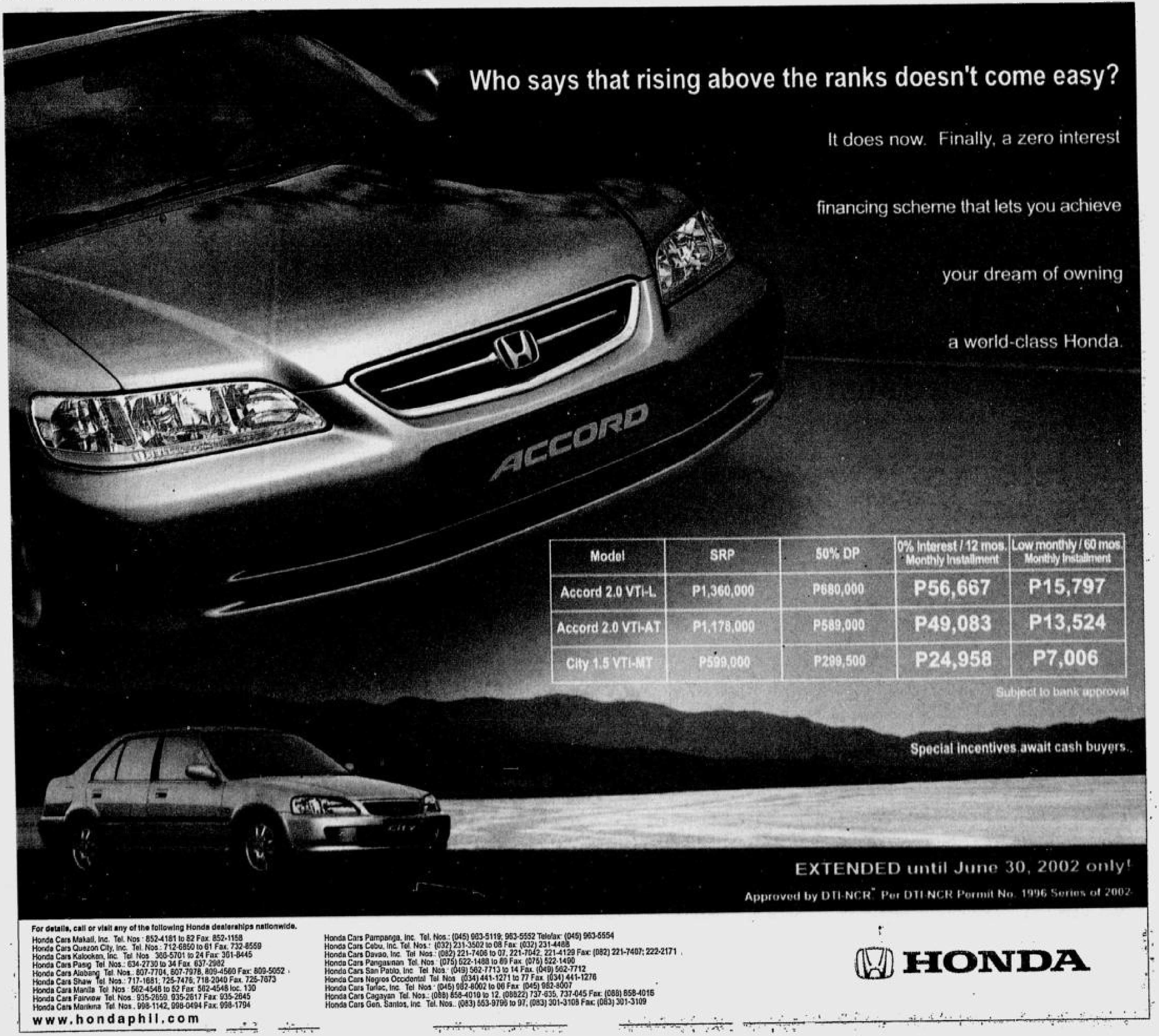
An index above 100 means the number of respondents who expect business conditions to improve exceeds those expecting conditions to get worse.

The Bank of Korea polled 2,945 companies with annual sales of more than 2 billion won ($1.64 million) between May 22 and June 1.

For the second quarter, the BSI was expected to be 126, but the actual figure was 114, the central bank said.

Meanwhile, exporters' BSI rose to 116 in the third quarter from 105 a year ago, while the BSI for companies focused on domestic sales rose to 121 from 103.

The third quarter sales index stood at 127, up from 109 a year earlier. *Reuters*



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BCDA

Bases Conversion Development Authority

INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS
UNDERWRITING OF HPICs

The Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) is inviting interested proponents to participate in the Underwriting of the Heritage Park Investment Certificates (HPICs) at Area 2 in the Heritage Park, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila with an approximate total area of 2.28 hectares.

Interested proponents may submit their Letters of Interest to BCDA. Interested Proponents can purchase the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Underwriting of the HPICs that outlines, among others, the requirements that will enable participation in the privatization.

The TOR for the Underwriting of HPICs will be ready for distribution to interested proponents by **14 June 2002** at the BCDA offices. A non-refundable cost of the TOR is Php25,000.00 payable to the BCDA in Manager's Check.

A conference among interested proponents is tentatively set for 2:00 p.m., **02 July 2002.** The objective of the conference is to discuss the property and project structure that form part of the Underwriting of HPICs, the TOR and other classifications from interested proponents. Interested proponents will be informed of the final schedule and venue of the conference through contact numbers submitted to the BCDA.

Interested proponents can direct their inquiries to:

THE CHAIRMAN
ADP PHASE 2 COMMITTEE (ADP Com-2)
BCDA Corporate Center
Gozar corner Lucas Streets, Villamor Air Base
Pasay City

or they can contact Ms. Aileen R. Zosa and/or Ms. Bambie L. Andal at telephone numbers 510-0420 or 510-0411 or they can write at the following email addresses **arzosa@bcda.gov.ph** or **bandal@bcda.gov.ph**

(Sgd.) **Chairman**
ADP Phase 2 Committee

(PDI – June 11 & 20, 2002)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
Toll Regulatory Board

METRO MANILA SKYWAY PROJECT (STAGE I)
PROVISIONAL TOLL RATES
Effective July 1, 2002

Notice is hereby given that as per Board resolution Number 2001-89, the Grantor approved a provisional relief in the form of an interim toll rate adjustment in accordance with Section 7.04 (3) of the Supplemental Toll Operation Agreement between the Republic of the Philippines acting by and through the Toll Regulatory Board (TRB); the Philippine National Construction Corporation (PNCC); and, Citra Metro Manila Tollways Corporation (CMMTC). The provisional toll rate increase as shown below will be implemented on the stated dates from Magallanes to Alabang (At-Grade Section) and from Bicutan to Buendia with the Ayala Central Business District (Elevated Section) of the Metro Manila Skyway Project - Stage 1. The said provisional toll rates shall be published by the Investor once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation and that said provisional toll rate increase shall remain in effect until such time that the TRB Board has determined otherwise.

Second Schedule of Implementation, July 1, 2002 to December 31, 2002

CLASS 1 (Cars, Jeepneys, Pick-Ups, Vans)

ENTRY/EXIT	SKYWAY	MAG	C-5	BICUTAN	SUCAT
Merville	-	20.00			
Bicutan	75.00	20.00	20.00		
Sucat	86.00	31.00	31.00	11.00	
Alabang	97.00	42.00	42.00	22.00	11.00
Filinvest	97.00	42.00	42.00	22.00	11.00

CLASS 2 (Light Trucks, Tourist/School & PUBs, Class 1 - 7 ft. & above height)

ENTRY/EXIT	SKYWAY	MAG	C-5	BICUTAN	SUCAT
Merville		40.00			
Bicutan	150.00	40.00	40.00		
Sucat	172.00	62.00	62.00	22.00	
Alabang	194.00	84.00	84.00	44.00	22.00
Filinvest	194.00	84.00	84.00	44.00	22.00

CLASS 3 (Heavy and Multi-Axled Trucks, Trailers)

ENTRY/EXIT	SKYWAY	MAG	C-5	BICUTAN	SUCAT
Merville		60.00			
Bicutan	225.00	60.00	60.00		
Sucat	258.00	93.00	93.00	33.00	
Alabang	291.00	126.00	126.00	66.00	33.00
Filinvest	291.00	126.00	126.00	66.00	33.00

Note: Any interested expressway user shall have the right to file within a period of ninety (90) days after the date of publication of this order, a petition with the TRB (2nd Floor, IBP Building, Doña Julia Vargas Avenue, Pasig City) for a review of the toll rates.

SO ORDERED, December 14, 2001
By Authority of the Board

(Sgd.) JAIME S. DUMLAO, JR.
Executive Director

OBITUARIES

There's just something about you that we'll never forget-
the way you smiled
the way your eyes sparkled
the way everything seemed brighter when you walked in
the way you held the world in the palm of your hand.

We didn't get to see you experience the ups and downs of growing up. We didn't get to see you enjoy the clarity and peace that comes with age. We didn't get to see you grow into the beautiful woman we're sure you would have been.

But somehow, in your presence and absence, you've made us all better people - the best that we could be.

Happy 18th Birthday, Dearest

Rachel Anne Marie L. Que

June 20, 1984 - October 5, 1993

In loving memory,

Papa Romy, Mama Marivic; sisters **Shara Mae** and **Sheena Marie**; brothers **Ralph Gregory, Renz Angelo, Raymond Christian** and **Ryan Russell** and all our aunts, uncles and cousins.

We would like to request the readers to offer prayers for the repose of her soul. Masses will be offered at the following churches:

(June 20, 2002)

ALABANG	
St. Jerome & Sta. Susana Parish Alabang	6:00 AM - 6:00 PM
St. James The Great Parish, Ayala Alabang	6:30 AM - 6:30 PM
Paref Woodrose School, Ayala Alabang	12:00 NN
CALOOCAN	
Our Lady of Grace Parish	6:45 AM
MANILA	
San Roque de Manila Parish	6:00 AM
St. Anthony's Shrine, Sampaloc	6:15 AM
University of Santo Tomas Church	6:30 AM
Immaculate Conception Parish, Tayuman	6:30 AM
Espiritu Santo Church, Sta. Cruz	7:00 AM
San Lorenzo Ruiz Minor Basilica, Binondo	8:30 AM
Our Lady of Loreto Parish, Sampaloc	5:00 PM
Minor Basilica of Black Nazarene St. John de Baptist Parish, Quiapo	5:00 PM
San Agustin Church, Intramuros	5:30 PM
San Sebastian Parish, Quiapo	6:00 PM
Sta. Cruz Church, Sta. Cruz	6:15 PM
PAMPANGA	
Immaculate Conception Paris Guagua	5:30 PM
PANGASINAN	
Our Lady of Manaoag, Alaminos	11:00 AM
QUEZON CITY	
Our Lady of Lourdes, Retiro	5:30 AM
Most Redeemer Parish, Brixton Hills	6:30 AM
La Naval de Manila, Sto. Domingo Church	7:30 AM
Mt. Carmel Church, New Manila	6:00 PM
San Antonio de Padua Parish, SFDM	6:00 PM
Sta. Rita de Cacia Parish, Philamlife Homes	6:00 PM
MAKATI	
Sanctuario de San Antonio Parish, Forbes Park	12:15 PM
St. John Basco Parish, Pasay Road	6:00 PM
SAN JUAN	
St. John de Baptist, Pinaglabanan	5:45 AM
Sanctuario de San Jose, Greenhills	6:15 AM
Mary the Queen Parish, Greenhills	6:00 AM

I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25-26

Ma. Elena Jaucian Hilado

August 18, 1936 - June 14, 2002

Peacefully joined her Creator, her father ***Vicente B. Hilado*** *and brothers* ***Alfredo*** *and* ***Benjamin****, on June 14, 2002 in New York City.*

Her bereaved family, mother **Brigida,** brothers and sisters **Alicia** and **Antonio (†) Enriquez, Ma. Soledad, Lilia** and **Geoffrey (†) Dulay, Jose Donato, Vicente Victor Jr.** and **Ma. Victoria Millan, Francisco** and **Cecille Sison, Juan Lamberto, Ma. Rosario Neri, Manuel** and **Josefina Vesa, Ma. Luisa** and **Blas Hizon, Nestor, Ma. Beatriz** and **Tarsicio Medalla,** nephews, nieces and grandchildren request for prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her cremated remains will arrive noontime of June 23, 2002 and will lie in state at the St. Alphonsus de Liguori Chapels at Magallanes Village, Makati City. Interment will be in the same venue after the 10:00 a.m. mass on Wednesday, June 26, 2002.

FR. KENNETH C. BOGART, S.J.

was called home to the Lord on Wednesday, 19 June 2002.

Wake:	Oratory of St. Ignatius at Loyola House of Studies, Ateneo de Manila University Campus, Loyola Heights, Q.C. Concelebrated Mass every evening at 8:00 P.M.
Funeral Mass:	at 8:00 A.M. on Saturday, 22 June in the Oratory of St. Ignatius, Loyola House of Studies.
Interment:	Sacred Heart Novitiate Cemetery, Novaliches, Q.C., immediately after the Funeral Mass.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF HIS SOUL.

"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."
2 Corinthians 5:4-5

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OBITUARIES

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In Prayerful Memory of

JUANITA GOTIANUY UY

On June 21, Friday

Masses will be held at the following churches:

CEBU

1.	Sacred Heart	6:00 PM
2.	Asilo dela Milagrosa	6:00 PM
3.	Cebu Metropolitan Cathedral	6:00 PM
4.	Sto. Rosario Parish	6:00 PM
5.	Basilica del Sto. Niño	6:30 PM
6.	Virgin de Regla Parish (Lapu-lapu City)	5:30 PM
7.	Redemptorist Church	6:00 PM
8.	Immaculada Conception (Antipolo City)	8:00 AM

MANILA/MAKATI

1.	Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park	7:30 AM/12:15/6:00 PM
2.	Saint Andrew, Bel-Air	6:30 AM / 6:30 PM
3.	San Lorenzo Ruiz, Manila	6:00 / 12:15

U.S./CANADA

1.	St. Patrick, Toronto	8:00 AM
2.	St. Mary, New York	8:00 AM
3.	Church of Good Sheperd, L.A.	8:00 AM

Please pray for our mother, **Juanita**

(Thank You)

So Lovingly Remembered
On His 17th Death Anniversary

TAN GO SU

of Malolos, Bulacan

who passed away on to eternal life on 20 June 1985

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass shall be offered at the following churches:

Barasoain Church, Malolos, Bulacan	6:00 a.m.
Basilica Minore, Malolos, Bulacan	6:00 a.m.
Saint Jude, Manila	6:30 a.m.
St. Joseph Parish Church, Masangkay	6:30 a.m.

The family requests the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Our Beloved

ENGR. RODRIGO SULAPAS PEPINO

of

Gigaguit, Surigao del Norte and Butuan City

Joined his Creator on June 15, 2002 at the age of 68.

He is survived by his loving wife Yaya; children and grandchildren.
His remains lie at his residence in Sulpicio Street, Luz Village, Butuan City.
Interment will be on Sunday, June 23, 2002.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS
FREE OBIT DESIGN

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FELISA C. CUISON

Died peacefully at the age of 85 on June 16, 2002.

Her children **Flor Sr. & Rosie, Leticia, Marina & Eddie, Carl & Peggy, Elisa & Efren, Felipe, Gilbert & Teresita, Elvira & Philip**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, relatives and friends mourn her passing and wish her eternal rest.

Her body lies in state at the Supreme Chapel, Mt. Sinai Memorial Chapel, Arellano Street, Dagupan City.

Interment will be on Saturday, June 22, 2002 at the Eternal Garden, Dagupan City after the 3:00 p.m. Mass at St. John Cathedral.

FRANCISCO ALBERTO MENDOZA

Passed away on June 18, 2002.

His wife Letty; his children and grandchildren Euanne and James Blanco, Macky and Nikki, Janina and Abet Reyes, Jody, Tata and Chichot, Nico, Mykee, Madgee, and Mica, Ging and Jan de Marcaida, Noneen and Gerry Gener, Cindy and Andrew, Matty and his brothers and sisters Lita and Gabby, Rosita and Benjie, Roxane and Nino Belardo and Cocoy and his brothers and sisters-in-law the Litonjuas and the Abolas request your prayers for his eternal repose.

His ashes will be brought to the Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills on June 19, 2002 and will remain there until June 20, 2002.

Message of Thanks

God takes care of our grief. But more often than not, God uses other people to help us during difficult times. You became His very hands of healing and comfort.

Your kind expressions of sympathy—the loving messages you conveyed, the flowers you sent, the donations you gave, the prayers you offered and most especially the care and concern you showed by your gift of time and presence during the wake of our loved one—greatly eased our sorrow.

We, the family of

ROBERT C. LEONG

who joined his Creator on June 8, 2002,
together with our relatives sincerely express our appreciation and gratitude to all of you who, in many ways comforted us during our time of bereavement.

ROSS BLAKE

Beloved husband of **Donna**, devoted father to **Ashley** and **Oliver**, passed away suddenly in Hong Kong on Friday, 14th June 2002.

Service to be held at St. John Cathedral, Hong Kong, Saturday, 22nd June 2002 at 10am.

Contact: **14 Hamilton Street, Brighton, 3186
Australia
(852) 9104 9965**

First Death Anniversary

MILA P. AJERO-FELIPE & XAVIER A. FELIPE

who died on June 21, 2002

Her loving husband and doting father Atty. **Ramon A. Felipe IV**; children **Ramon V, Julius, Milo & Amanda**, in-laws, grandchildren, parents, sister and brothers, and other relatives request their friends to continue to remember them in their prayers.

Masses will be said tomorrow, June 21st, at the following:

a)	Ascension of Our Lord Church, Lagro Subdivision Novaliches, Quezon City	6:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.
b)	Most Holy Redeemer Church, HRVA, Araneta Subd. Quezon City	6:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.
c)	Don Bosco Church, Brgy. San Lorenzo, Makati City	7:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
d)	BPI Family Bank Chapel, Makati City	12:15 p.m.
e)	Albay Cathedral of St. Gregory, Legaspi City	5:30 p.m.
f)	St. Anthony of Padua Church, Gubat, Sorsogon	5:30 p.m.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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Goodrich to buy TRW aeronautical systems

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina—Global aerospace parts maker Goodrich Corp. will buy TRW Inc.'s aeronautical systems businesses for $1.5 billion in cash.

The transaction, announced late Tuesday night, was approved by the boards of directors of both companies and was expected to be permanently financed by a combination of debt and equity-linked securities.

The deal is subject to approval by US and European regulators.

TRW Aeronautical Systems had 2001 revenue of $1.1 billion and earnings before taxes and special items of $180 million. Goodrich's aerospace sales were $4.2 billion in 2001.

About 55 percent of TRW Aeronautical Systems' sales are original equipment and the rest from parts. Military sales account for 25 percent of the total, complementing Goodrich's growth in that sector.

"The integration of Aeronautical Systems with Goodrich will significantly strengthen our position as a top-tier aerospace systems supplier and further deepen our longstanding relationships with shared customers worldwide," said David Burner, Goodrich's chair and chief executive.

TRW spokesperson Jay McCaffrey said the $1.5 billion from the sale of the aeronautical division would be used to reduce the company's $5.5 billion in debt.

"It was a very attractive offer for us in price and terms," McCaffrey said late Tuesday.

A Goodrich spokesperson could not be reached for comment.

McCaffrey would not discuss whether there were other bids for the aeronautical division, the smallest of the company's four divisions.

It is based in Solihull, the United Kingdom, and has manufacturing facilities and other operations in nine countries worldwide, employing about 6,200 people.

Lyndhurst, Ohio-based TRW is in discussions with other companies to sell off its space and electronics division and information technology division. The company, with sales of more than $16 billion, also plans to spin off its automotive division into independent company called TRW Automotive Inc.

"This is the first milestone in our process of enhancing value for shareholders," McCaffrey said of the aeronautical division sale. "This needed to be done prior to us taking any action such as spinning off our automotive division into a standalone entity."

TRW has rejected a hostile takeover bid by Northrop Grumman Corp., a Los Angeles-based defense contractor.

Northrop agreed last month to delay continuing with its $6.7-billion bid for TRW while looking at the company's private records under terms of a confidentiality agreement.

Goodrich is completing its makeover from an Akron, Ohio-based tire maker named BF Goodrich. The company no longer makes tires. Charlotte-based Goodrich instead makes landing gear, engine components and electrical systems for commercial, business and military aircraft. It employs 18,000 people worldwide in 20 countries. *AP*

A WORKER climbs to erect a sign with the Bank of China Tower (left) and Cheong Kong Center in the background. Hong Kong Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa expects Hong Kong's economy to post a "small and modest" recovery in the second half.

AFP

After long periods of soft results, PC industry hit by bad news

PALO ALTO, California—After countless periods of soft results, earnings warnings and write-offs for bad investments, three computer industry giants on Tuesday dumped more bad news on a market that had been trying hard to believe things were finally looking up.

Both Apple Computer Inc. and Advanced Micro Devices Inc. said their current quarter results would be weaker than forecast, while Intel Corp., the world's largest chip maker, said it would take a $100-million pre-tax charge to exit its Web hosting business, an investment made back in the dotcom days that had not panned out as planned.

All three stocks fell in after-hours trade and some investors were braced for a broader sell-off on Wednesday.

Apple Computer, which warned of especially weak sales in Europe and Japan, showed the pressure on the whole personal computer industry, said AG Edwards analyst Brett Miller.

"The companies that ended the first quarter with a lot of optimism are likely to warn now," Miller said, noting that companies winding down a second quarter ending on June 30 were vulnerable to not closing all the business they had counted on in the final weeks.

One company that sounded mildly optimistic last quarter was Dell Computer Corp., although Miller noted that its quarter did not end for more than a month so it would be some time before it knew how its results were shaping up.

Others identified Gateway Inc., which recently indicated it was hitting its stride after a spate of troubles, as another company that might not be able to meet its numbers.

"I think it's possible," Brian Eisenbarth, a senior portfolio manager for Davidson Investment Partners, said of Gateway.

Representatives of Dell and Gateway could not be reached immediately for comment.

Apple Computer, which closed regular trading on Tuesday down 39 cents to $20.15 per share, was quoted around $17.40 in after-hours trade.

Shares of AMD, which blamed soft PC sales for its expected sales shortfall and operating loss, fell from its closing price of $10.30 to around $9. And Intel dipped from a close of $22.02 per share to $21.33.

All stocks had been well below recent highs, even before the latest rash of gloomy news.

This latest round of bad news recalled the dark days of a year, and even two years earlier, when multiple tech companies came out at once to say they would not be able to meet their numbers for an upcoming quarter. *Reuters*

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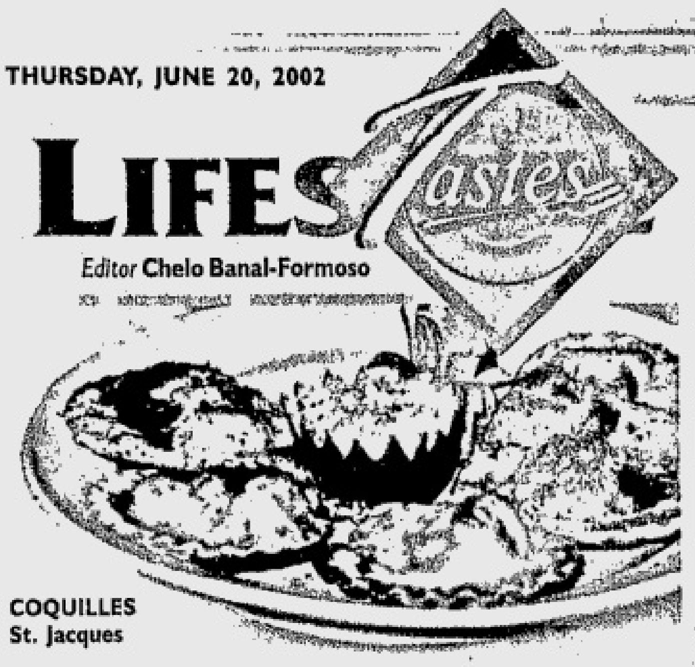
LIFES

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso



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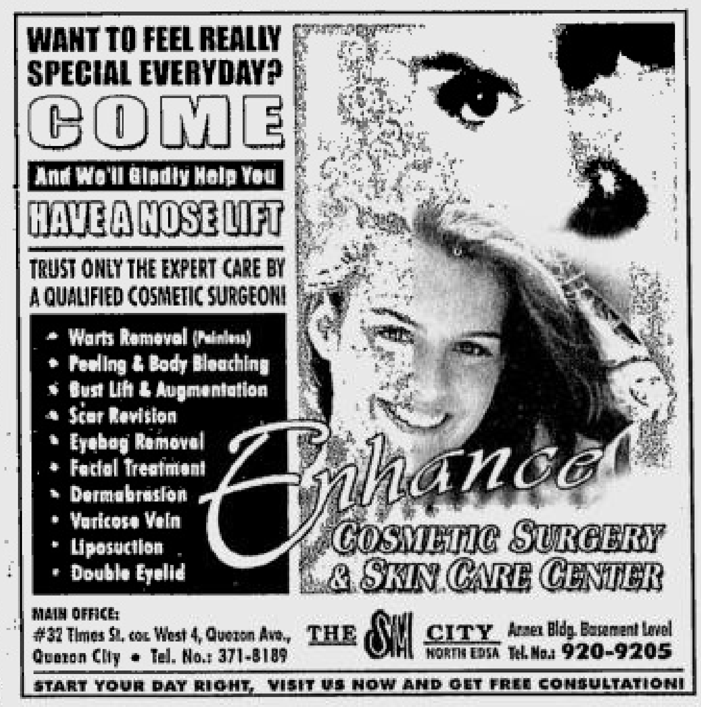

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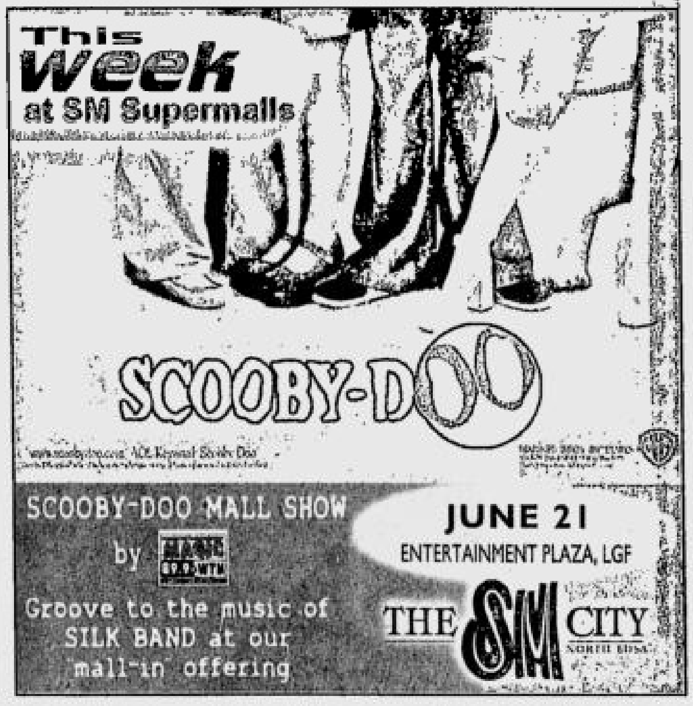

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A royal assemblage called Bouillabaisse and other French surprises

"I'LL take you to a French restaurant in Ermita," said Ed Quimson. "Are you sure it is French? What is its name?" "The Blue Frog," he replied, and I believed that indeed it was French, because of the name and its resonances. It is, Ed explained, defined by chef and owner Gregoire Chretien as a bistro—a small, casual wine bar and restaurant with the patron-chef (or couple) paying close personal attention to the food, the diners, the orders.

IN GOOD TASTE

Doreen G. Fernandez

Ed Quimson, whom I had last seen as the chef at the Brokers' Lounge of the Stock Exchange, now lives in Baguio, in healthy semi-retirement. He can no longer take the long hours and the pressures of presiding over a restaurant kitchen because of his quadruple heart bypass, and so now lives on Dominican Hill with a great view all around, and only his strictly vegetarian diet to attend to. He accepts consultancies, develops recipes and is filling up his part of the book on *sinigang*, which we began planning when we were both in the hospital.

It was therefore a great night for me—one chef doing the ordering and making expert comments on the food; and the other cooking for us out of his classic menu.

The Blue Frog (614 J. Nakpil, Malate; tel. 522-7364) has been open for about six months now, but Chef Greg, who is from Brittany, has been in the Philippines for more

A ROYAL/ p.C2

CHEFS Gregoire, Alan and Ed

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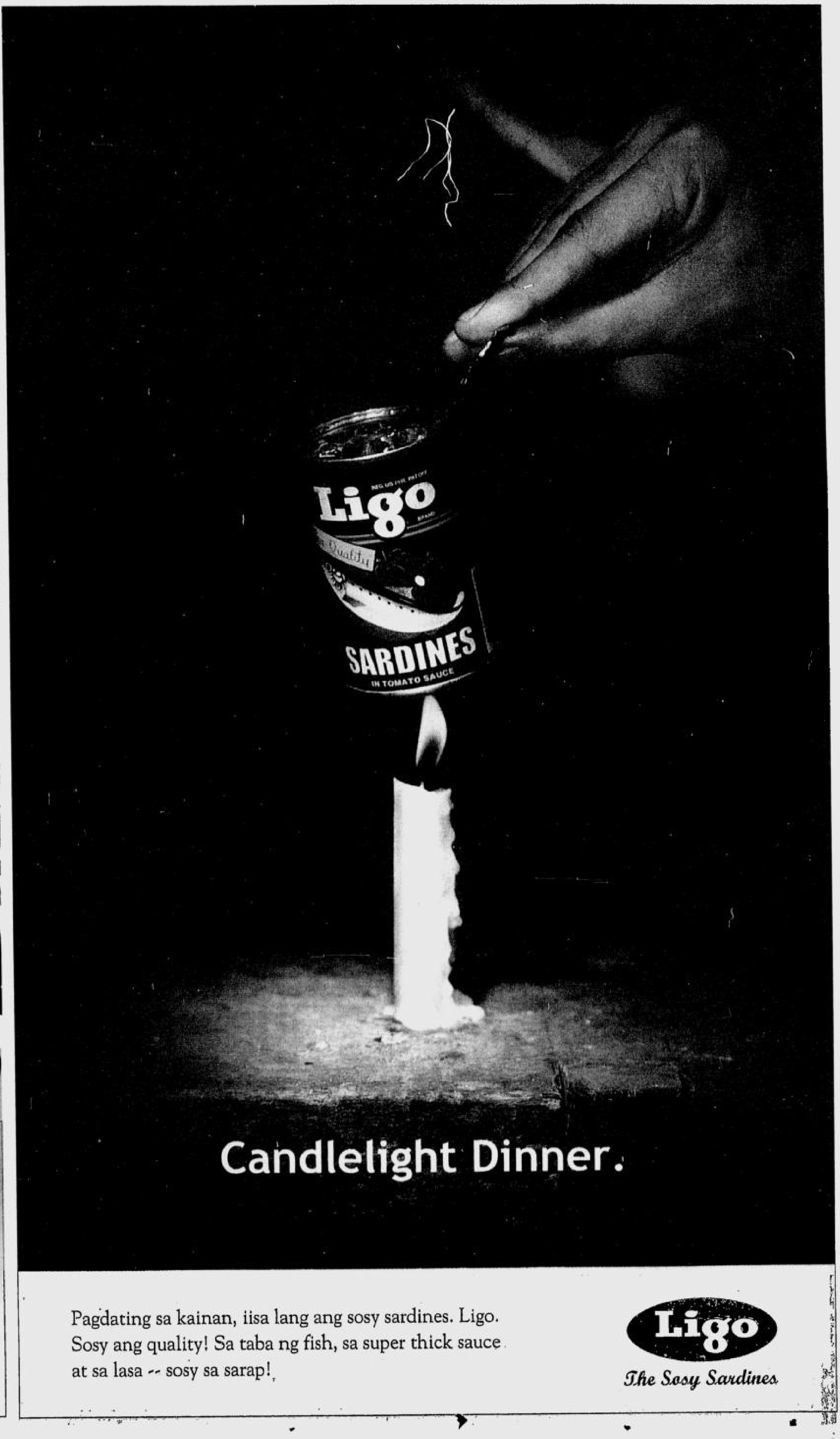


Pagdating sa kainan, iisa lang ang sosy sardines. Ligo. Sosy ang quality! Sa taba ng fish, sa super thick sauce at sa lasa -- sosy sa sarap!
Ligo
The Sosy Sardines

BOUILLABAISSE: 10 types of fish in center. Clockwise: Soup, bread, roville, cheese

DUCK a l'Orange

HOMEMADE foie gras

A royal assemblage called Bouillabaisse and other French surprises

From page C1

than six years, cooking crepes and other de[illegible]nts in Boracay and elsewhere. He is a quiet, scholarly-looking man who answers willingly questions of history, style, taste and provenance.

Provençe dish

Ed had ordered ahead a *bouillabaisse*, which is not on the menu. This is a dish I associate with my very first visit to France, with Maurice Chevalier and the movie "Gigi," and with good French restaurants around the world. The Larousse Gastronomique, quoting "most dictionaries," defines it as "a Provençe dish made out of fish cooked in water or white wine, flavored with garlic, parsley, saffron, pepper, bay leaf, etc. Then it adds: This "etc." no doubt means all the other essential ingredients...such as oil and tomatoes, without which there would be no *bouillabaisse*."

Myth says that it was first prepared by Venus, goddess of love, for her handsome husband Vulcan, with the purpose of inducing sound sleep in him. The writer Mery says that it was created by the abbess of a Marseilles convent for a Friday abstinence meal. Mery himself wrote a poem about the dish, specifying the fish that should go into it: rascasse, chapon, saint-pierre, conger eel, angler fish, red mullet, rouquier, whiting, sea perch, spiny lobster, crabs and other shellfish:

Fins poisons gee Neptune, aux feud d'un ciel ardient,
Choisit ala fourchette et jamais au trident.
(Fine fish, that Neptune, in the fire of a blazing sky,
Spikes on a fork, and never on a trident.)

At least 10 kinds of different textures, says Chef Greg, thus requiring that he hit the markets early in the morning to assemble the royal assemblage called the Marseilles *bouillabaisse*.

First came a bowl of soup, richly red-orange. Beside it were ranged a bowl of bits of bread, a dish of grated cheese and one of *rouille*, the accompanying sauce. In the middle went Chef Greg's market treasures, and we dropped, dunked, mixed, sipped, savored, sighed and thanked God for the bounty of the sea. We also suggested that *bouillabaisse* be added to the restaurant menu, since no other restaurant seems to serve it regularly, and he agreed—warning that it must be ordered 24 hours in advance.

Ed's fancy

What else did Ed fancy? (He was playing hooky from vegetables that evening.) First, a lovely fried Camembert with caraway seeds and cumin and a jelly of currants—a small and lovely symphony. Then, "because I have not had this for so long," a crusted duck *foie gras* on thin apple slices. A little shellful of Coquilles St. Jacques, the scallops that were my very first taste of French cuisine.

After the bouillabaisse, he also had—and we tasted—Duck a l'orange, that staple of French cooking that disappeared for a while in the days of *nouvelle cuisine* and *cuisine minceur*. Ed declared himself content only after a Lamb Loin Marseillaise, which was superb.

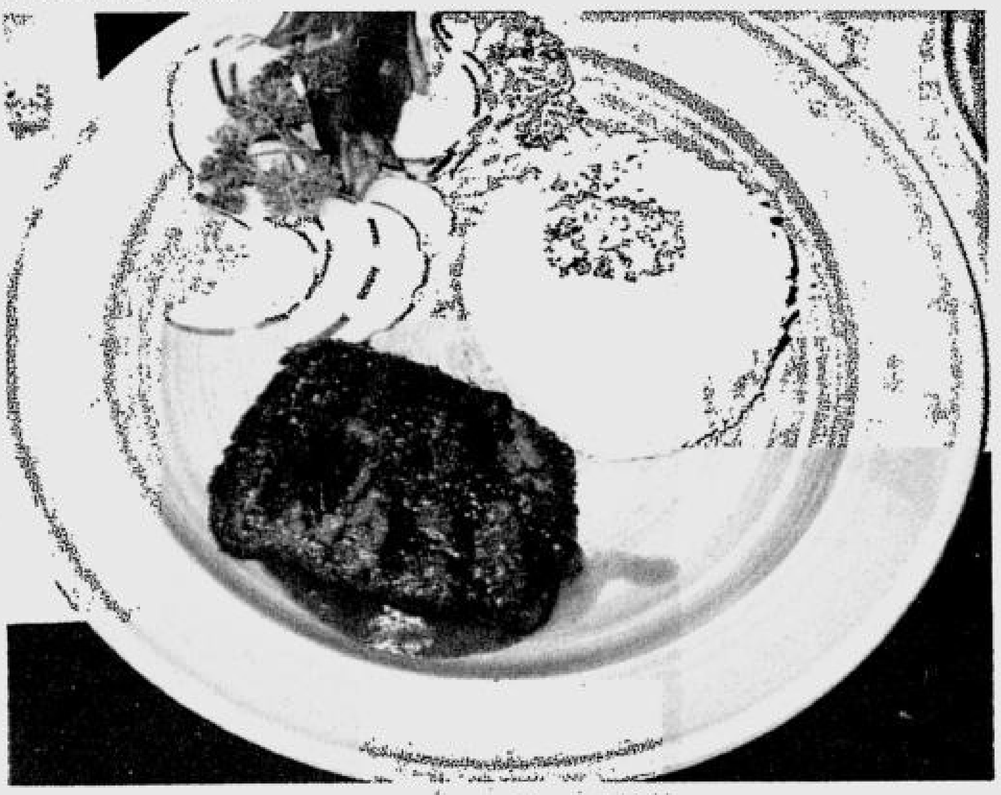
For dessert, he would not even look at the menu, so replete was he. "Surprise us," he told Greg. And he did just that—so I don't know if the lovely dessert with apples in it was on the menu or not, invented that moment or long remembered. It was really good.

Sitting in The Blue Frog facing the car-lined street is a great spectator sport on a Saturday night. So many people we knew passed by that we started to keep score: two for you, three for me, etc. Some we both knew, like Doris Ho and Anton San Diego, who peeked in for a while to talk about a food project. Erlinda Panlilio and friends were trying out a new restaurant. John Silva and Jonathan Best were looking for a new restaurant to try, and finally found a Japanese one, quite new. Restaurants open and close fast on this street.

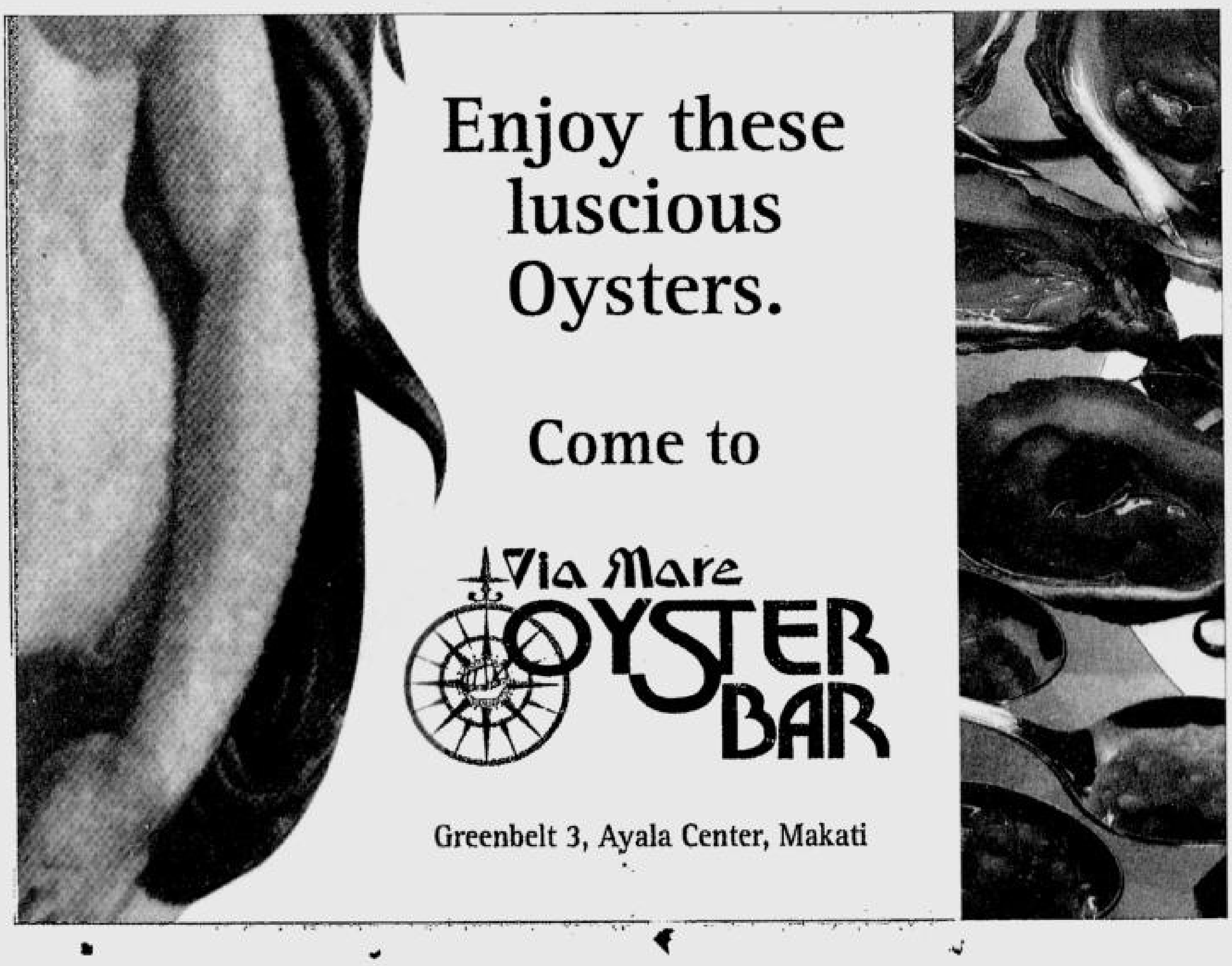
Sitting there content, heart warmed by friends and food, one realized how much of the good life depends on oneself and one's choices: thus on the food one chooses for a particular evening or moment; on one's background, experience and memories, and especially on the friends with whom one shares it all.

THE SURPRISE Dessert

One chef doing the ordering and making expert comments on the food and another cooking out of his classic menu—what more can you ask of the Blue Frog?



LAMB Loin Marseillaise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Cavite food fest features favorite fiesta fare

AS part of Cavite's Regada 2002 Festival celebration, Island Cove Resort and Leisure Park will be holding "Cavite Food Fest" on June 22-30 at the resort's Island Grill Restaurant. The weeklong culinary fest will feature Cavite Coffee Brew from the town of Amadeo and the winning entries in Cavite City's Tahong Festival.

Island Cove's chefs team up with Jess Tala and Josie Martinez, culinary experts on Cavite cuisine, to create a lunch and dinner buffet of Pochero, Arroz Valenciana, Bacalao Vizcaina, Pancit de Choca (noodles flavored with squid sauce) and Torta de Cangrego (breaded sauteed crab meat served in shell). For dessert, Cavite's Bibingka Samala and Bibingkoy (mini rice cake with *monggo* filling and sauce made of *langka* and *sago* bits) as well as other native sweets.

Call 810-3740 or 810-3728 for Manila Office or (046) 434-0210 for the resort, or e-mail us at islacove@info.com.ph or inquiry@islandcovephil.com.

Exotic Mediterranean offerings

EXPLORE the exotic cuisine of the region as Julius Maggi Kitchen (JMK) goes Mediterranean this June. Mediterranean food is healthy since it uses garden fresh vegetables and fruits, and unsaturated fat like olive oil. It is also rich in Omega 3 fatty acids found in seafood along the Mediterranean coast.

Renowned chef Roxs Cailao, owner and executive chef of Katre Restaurant which offers Mediterranean fusion cuisine, features easy-to-prepare Mediterranean dishes such as Field Green Salad, Bruschetta, Vegetarian Pasta with Garlic and Pesto Sauce, and Chicken Fajitas.

So, if you want to discover more about Mediterranean cooking, visit Julius Maggi Kitchen, G\F, Nestle Center, Rockwell, Makati, on June 22 and 27. Fee is at P500. Sessions will start at 2 p.m. Call 726-9232 or 726-1016.

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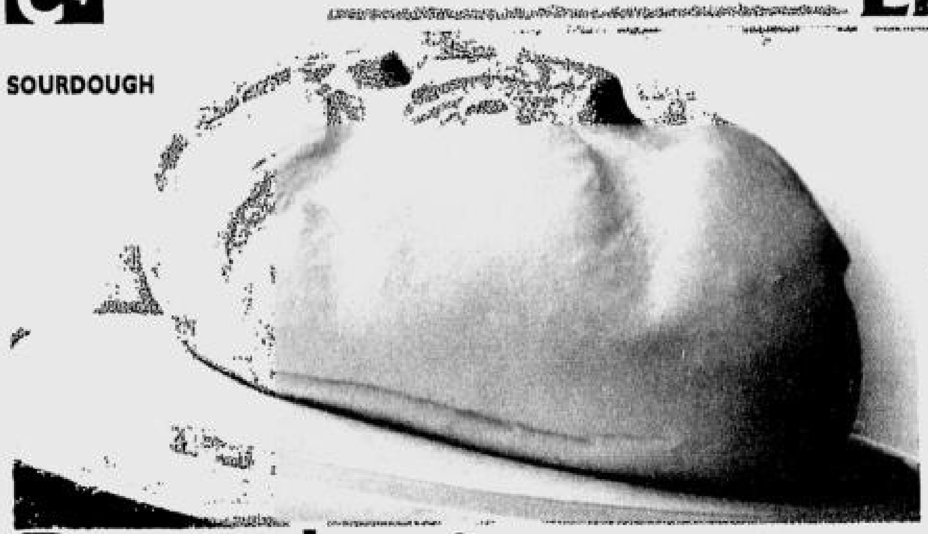
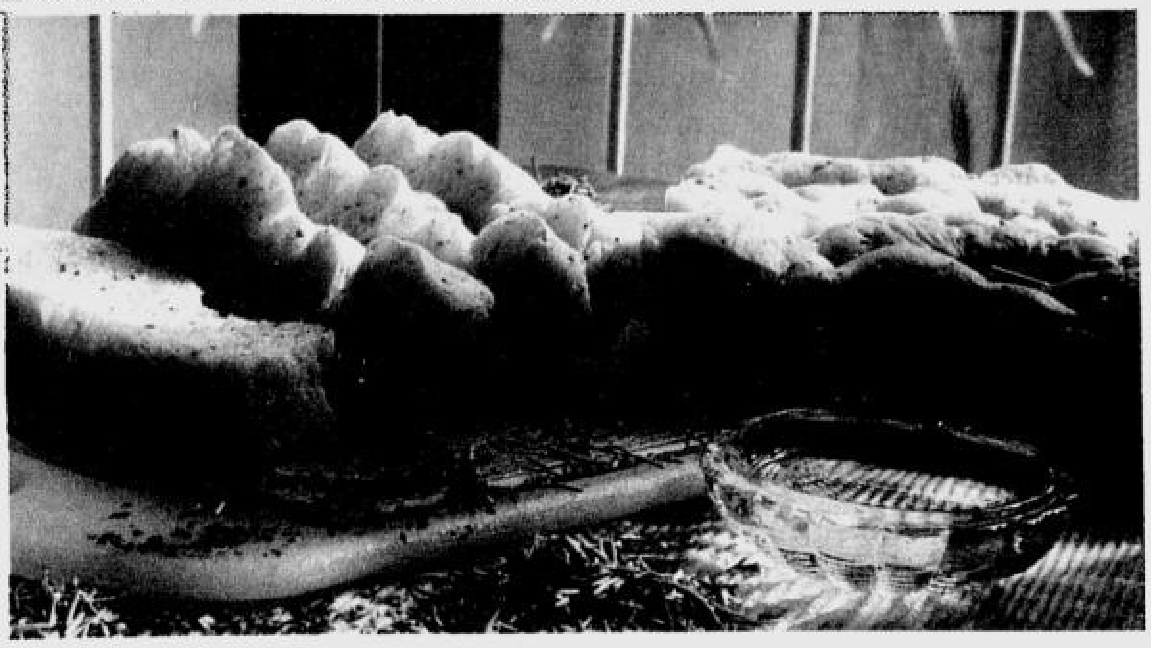


SOURDOUGH



FOCACCIA

Bread winners:
From plain to fancy dough

From page C8

chewy Jewish breads made from nonbromated bread flour, water, sugar, salt, yeast and vital wheat gluten. These breads are made using the traditional boil-and-bake method. A filling bread by itself, bagels are usually spread with cream cheese. For a more sinful combination, Peña suggests packing your bagels with lox, honey mustard, dill and capers—mmm, even Woody Allen would drool.

Moving on to San Francisco, the city by the bay is captured in **sourdough**. The hard crust of this bread makes it a fitting container for cream soups and chowders. The soft, moist crumb of the bread is a perfect complement to flavorful meats like roast beef and chicken.

Additives-free

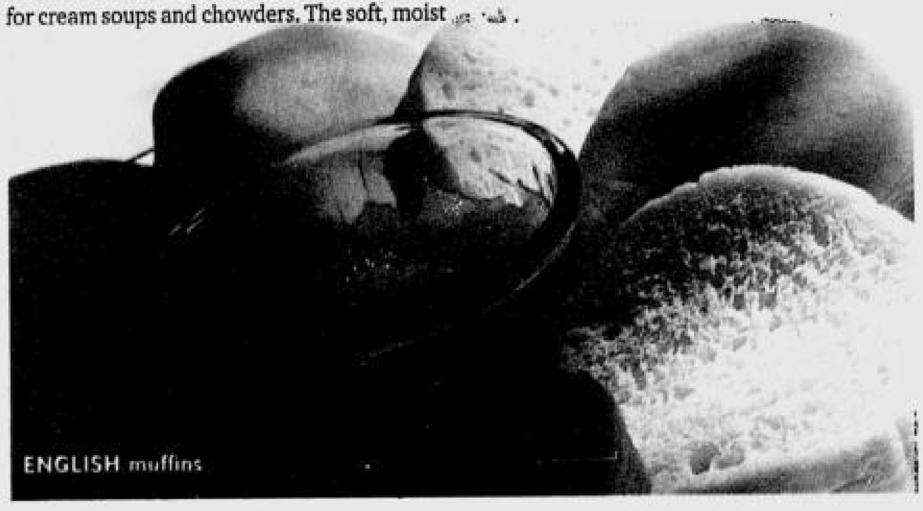
If going natural is what you want, there is **wheat peasant bread** that is fat-free, low-sodium, low-sugar and full of fiber. Made from hearty wheat flour, enriched with whole meal and roasted malt for a robust country flavor, the dough is slowly fermented to bring out the natural sweetness of the bread.

Farmer's rye bread is traditional peasant bread that aptly captures the heartiness of country folk. Dark grains of rye are slowly fermented with roasted malt and whole meal to produce fat-free, sugar-free and low-salt bread. The robust flavor of the bread makes it a great partner for deli meats like pastrami and corned beef or salmon and lox.

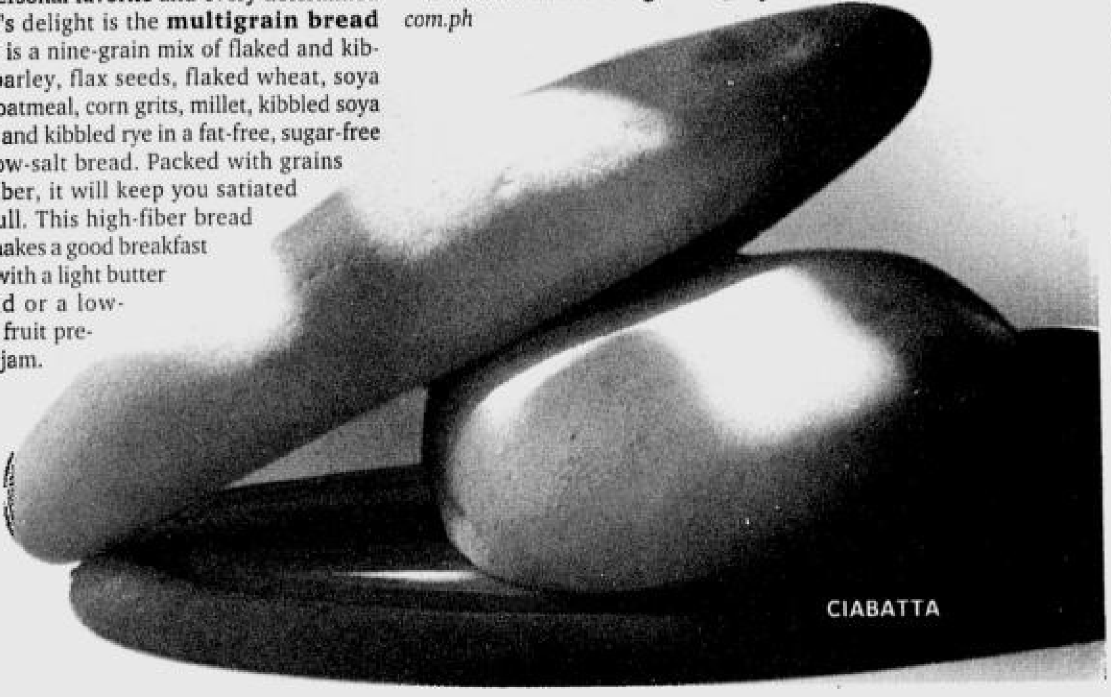
A personal favorite and every determined dieter's delight is the **multigrain bread** which is a nine-grain mix of flaked and kibbled barley, flax seeds, flaked wheat, soya grits, oatmeal, corn grits, millet, kibbled soya beans and kibbled rye in a fat-free, sugar-free and low-salt bread. Packed with grains and fiber, it will keep you satiated and full. This high-fiber bread also makes a good breakfast treat with a light butter spread or a low-sugar fruit preserve jam.

Clearly, no matter which part of the world you live in, bread is an essential part of your diet. Whether you begin the day with a bagel, *pan de sal* or an English muffin, you need your daily bread.

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph



ENGLISH muffins



CIABATTA

Nutritious recipes to perk up your child's lunch box

THE SAN Miguel Great Food Club wanted to assist parents in helping their kids deal with difficulties in studying and help moms with new *pambaon* ideas that their kids would enjoy. Both parents and kids were given a taste of starting the school year right with "Off to a Great Start," a back-to-school parenting seminar and cooking demonstration of *pambaon* recipes that was held at the Ayala Alabang Country Club.

Dorothy's Cooking School directress and cookbook author, Dorothy Ferreria, taught moms nutritious and exciting recipes to perk up their kids' lunch boxes. She even shared valuable cooking and baking tips.

Everyone was treated to product sampling of new products like Purefoods Tender Juicy Cheesedog, Dari Creme Lite, Purefoods Pritong Pinoy, Magnolia Gold Butter, Magnolia Cheddar Cheese and Magnolia Cheezee. They also got to take home raffle prizes from Glad, Tefal, La Germania and Petron Gasul.

Here are some of the back-to-school recipes that you may try at home.

DOROTHY Ferreria

All American Macaroni and Cheese with Pritong Pinoy Tocino

260 g pack Purefoods Pritong Pinoy Pork Tocino Slices
2 tbsp Dari Crème Classic
¼ c Dari Crème Classic
1 tbsp well-pounded garlic
½ c chopped onions
½ piece chicken broth cube
¼ c sifted all-purpose flour
2 ½ c fresh milk
250 g Magnolia Cheddar Cheezee Spread
300 g raw elbow macaroni noodles, cooked according to package directions

Pan-fry the Purefood Pritong Pinoy Pork Tocino Slices in a frying pan with a little Dari Creme until light golden brown. Allow to cool briefly and chop into ½-inch pieces. Set aside.

Melt the remaining Dari Creme over medium heat in a large wok. Add the garlic and onions and sauté until the onions are soft. Do not allow the garlic to brown or the sauce will get bitter. Add the chopped *tocino* and chicken cube. Continue to sauté until glossy. Add the flour and mix well. Then pour in the milk and continue to cook, stirring continuously, until the sauce has thickened. Stir in 1 bottle of Magnolia Cheddar Cheezee Spread and allow to boil briefly. Remove from heat, add the noodles and mix until combined.

Transfer to containers and garnish with chopped parsley. Allow to cool for 15 minutes before covering. Makes 3 servings.

Leftover Chicken Adobo with Garlic Rice

Chicken adobo:
1/3 c native vinegar
3 tbsp soy sauce
1 tbsp oyster sauce
¼ c chopped garlic
1 piece bay leaf
¼ c white sugar
Black pepper to taste
12 pieces Magnolia chicken thighs or 1 whole Magnolia chicken, cut-up
½-1 c water
Garlic rice:
½ c Dari Crème Classic
¼ c coarsely chopped garlic
1 piece chicken broth cube
6 c cooked rice
Black pepper to taste
¼ c *adobo* sauce (from cooked chicken *adobo*)
Garnishing:
Fried garlic
Boiled and peeled quail eggs
Chopped spring onions

In a large saucepan, combine the ingredients for *adobo*. Let stand for 15-30 minutes. Pour in ½ cup of water. Place over medium heat and allow to boil without stirring. Lower the flame and allow to simmer until the chicken is done. Add more water if necessary.

To prepare the rice, heat the margarine in a large wok. Add the garlic and sauté until the garlic becomes fragrant. Crumble the chicken cube and add to the mixture. Add rice and continue to saute until blended. Season with black pepper to taste. Pour in the *adobo* sauce and mix well.

Spoon an adequate amount of rice in a container. Top with a piece of chicken *adobo*. Garnish with fried garlic, halved quail eggs and spring onions or coriander.

Makes 5-6 servings.

Tapsilog with Pandan Rice

Pandan rice:
18 pieces mature *pandan* leaves (screwpine)
2¼ c water
1 piece chicken broth cube
3 c raw rice
260 g pack Purefoods Pritong Pinoy Pork Tapa Slices
2 tbsp Dari Creme Classic
Garnishing:
Chopped spring onions
Fried egg, sunny-side up

For the rice, cut the *pandan* leaves into 2-inch lengths. Transfer to the pitcher of a blender. Pour in the water and process until the leaves are shredded into fine bits. Strain. Measure the liquid and add water to come up with 3 cups liquid.

Wash the rice well and transfer to a rice cooker. Add the *pandan* liquid and the chicken cube. Activate the rice cooker.

Fry the Purefoods Pritong Pinoy Tapa Slices in a frying pan with Dari Creme. Allow to cool briefly and slice into bite-sized portions.

Spoon an adequate amount of *pandan* rice in a container. Arrange slices of Purefoods Pritong Pinoy Tapa on top of the rice. Carefully position a fried egg over the *tapa*. Garnish with chopped spring onions. Makes 5-6 servings.

Banana Carrot Cupcakes

2 c sifted all-purpose flour
2 tsp sifted baking soda
¼ tsp salt
2 tsp cinnamon powder
1 c white sugar
1 c well-packed dark brown sugar
1 c Magnolia Gold Butter, melted
4 whole eggs, graded extra large
1½ c grated carrots
1 c well-drained canned crushed pineapple
1/2 cup well mashed ripe bananas
1 c raisins, rinsed

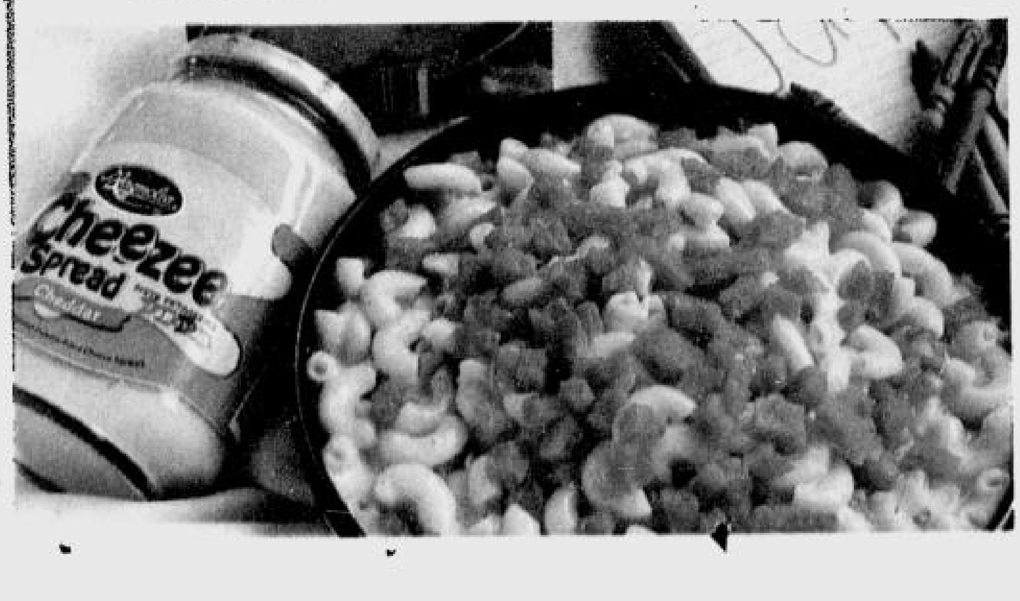
Preheat the oven to 350°F. Line cupcake molders with baking cups. Set aside.

In a large mixing bowl, pour the ingredients for the cupcake in the order given above. Mix with a wooden spoon or rubber scraper until blended. Pour the mixture into the prepared molders. Bake for 20-25 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.

Breaded Pritong Pinoy

1 pack Purefoods Pritong Pinoy Tapa
1 c all-purpose flour
2 eggs
1 c Japanese bread crumbs
2/3 c thick teriyaki sauce
Cooking oil for frying

Coat Purefoods Pritong Pinoy Tapa with flour, dip in egg and coat with bread crumbs. Freeze for at least 30 minutes and deep-fry in hot oil. Serve with teriyaki sauce. Makes 6 servings.



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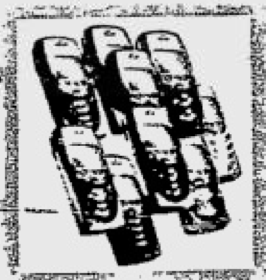
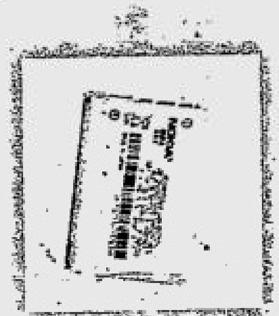
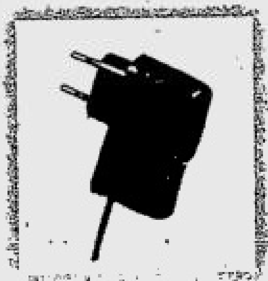

8310 Covers
(NK SKR-109)
P 380


Batteries
(NK BLC-2)
P 486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Mobile Lighter Charger
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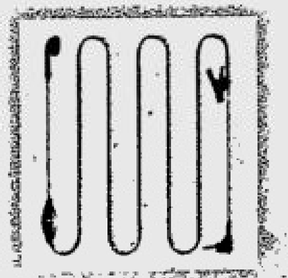
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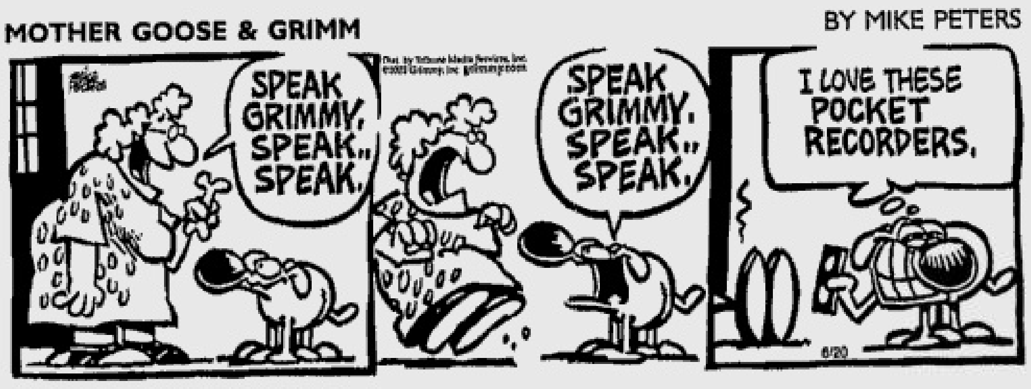
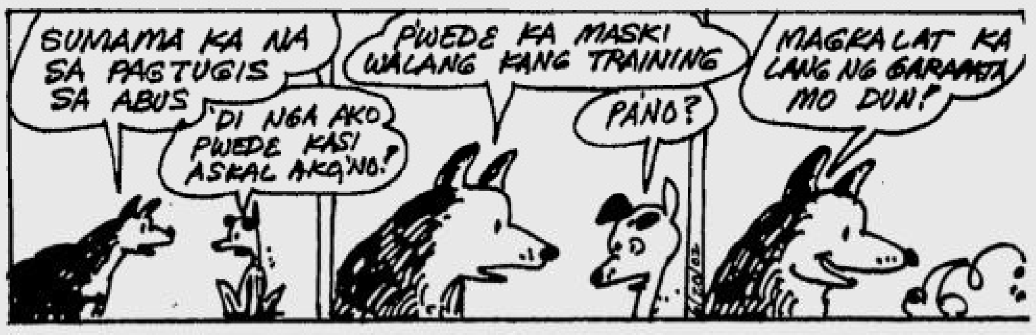
BY MIKE PETERS


SPEAK GRIMMY, SPEAK.. SPEAK.
SPEAK GRIMMY. SPEAK.. SPEAK.
I LOVE THESE POCKET RECORDERS.
6/20

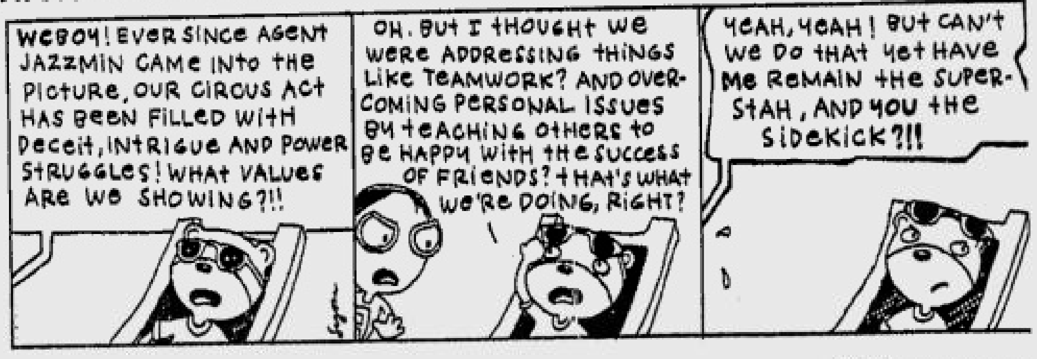
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


SUMAMA KA NA SA PAGTUGIS SA ABUS
'DI NGA AKO PWEDE KASI ASKAL AKO'NO!
PWEDE KA MASKI WALANG KANG TRAINING
PANO?
MAGKALAT KA LANG NG GARAPATA MO DUN!

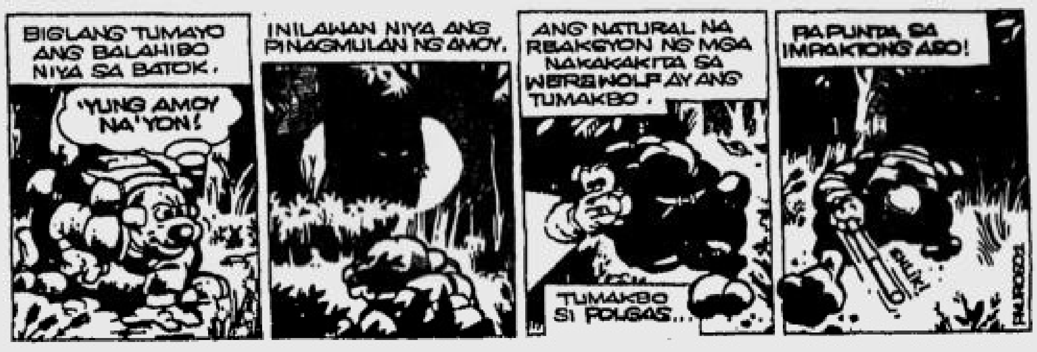
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WEBOY! EVER SINCE AGENT JAZZMIN CAME INTO THE PICTURE, OUR CIRCUS ACT HAS BEEN FILLED WITH DECEIT, INTRIGUE AND POWER STRUGGLES! WHAT VALUES ARE WE SHOWING?!!
OH. BUT I THOUGHT WE WERE ADDRESSING THINGS LIKE TEAMWORK? AND OVERCOMING PERSONAL ISSUES BY TEACHING OTHERS TO BE HAPPY WITH THE SUCCESS OF FRIENDS? THAT'S WHAT WE'RE DOING, RIGHT?
YEAH, YEAH! BUT CAN'T WE DO THAT YET HAVE ME REMAIN THE SUPER-STAH, AND YOU THE SIDEKICK?!!

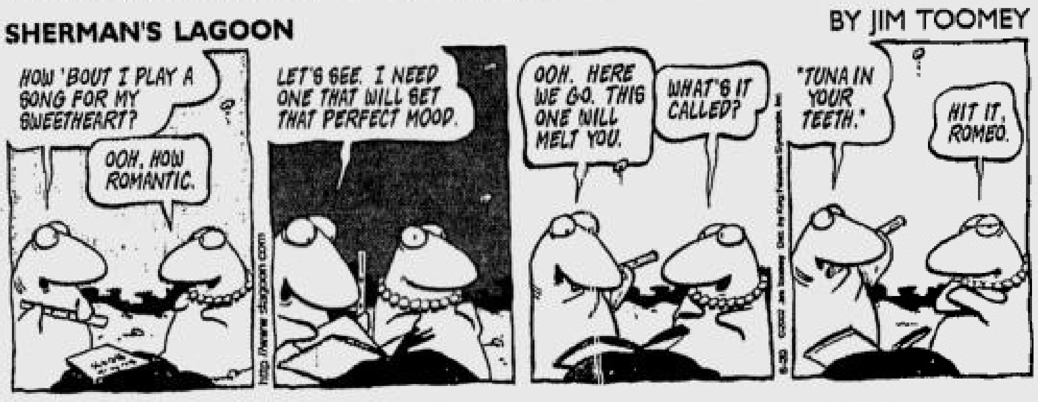
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


BIGLANG TUMAYO ANG BALAHIBO NIYA SA BATOK.
'YUNG AMOY NA'YON!
INILAWAN NIYA ANG PINAGMULAN NG AMOY.
ANG NATURAL NA REAKSYON NG MGA NAKAKAKITA SA WEREWOLF AY ANG TUMAKBO.
TUMAKBO SI POLGAS...
PAPUNTA SA IMPAKTONG ASO!

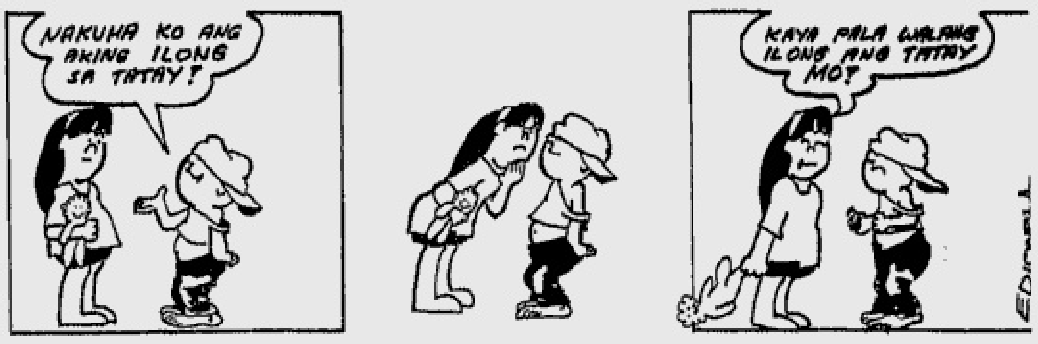
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


HOW 'BOUT I PLAY A SONG FOR MY SWEETHEART?
OOH, HOW ROMANTIC.
LET'S SEE. I NEED ONE THAT WILL SET THAT PERFECT MOOD.
OOH. HERE WE GO. THIS ONE WILL MELT YOU.
WHAT'S IT CALLED?
"TUNA IN YOUR TEETH."
HIT IT, ROMEO.

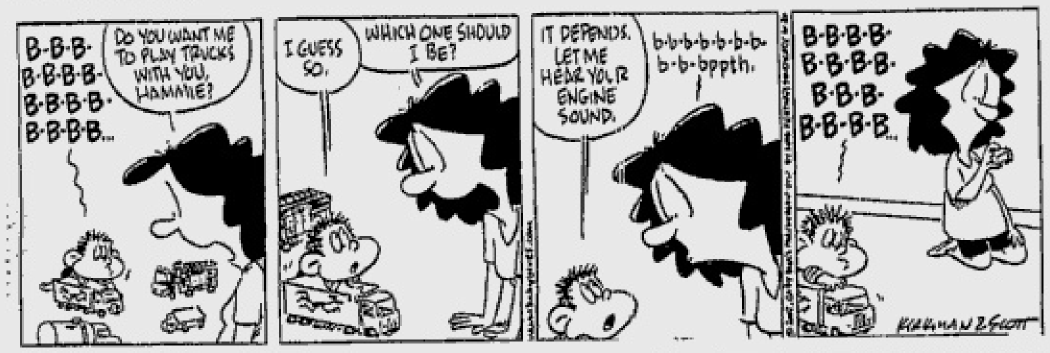
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


NAKUHA KO ANG AKING ILONG SA TATAY!
KAYA PALA WALANG ILONG ANG TATAY MO!

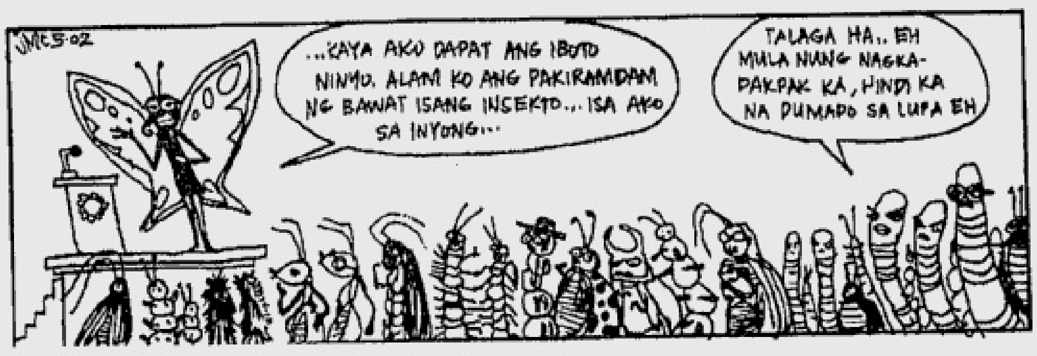
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


B-B-B-B-B-B-B-B-B-B-B-B-B-B-B...
DO YOU WANT ME TO PLAY TRUCKS WITH YOU, HAMMIE?
I GUESS SO.
WHICH ONE SHOULD I BE?
IT DEPENDS. LET ME HEAR YOUR ENGINE SOUND.
b-b-b-b-b-b-b-b-b-bppth.
B-B-B-B-B-B-B-B-B-B-B-B-B-B-B...
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


...KAYA AKO DAPAT ANG IBOTO NINYO. ALAM KO ANG PAKIRAMDAM NG BAWAT ISANG INSEKTO... ISA AKO SA INYONG...
TALAGA HA.. EH MULA NIANG NAGKA-PAKPAK KA, HINDI KA NA DUMAPO SA LUPA EH

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: John Goodman, Cyndi Lauper, Chet Atkins, Danny Aiello

Happy Birthday: You will be thinking on too grand a scale when it comes to home improvement projects this year. You'll make money, but you'll spend it just as quickly. Don't be afraid to ask for favors or to take on the responsibilities of a leadership position. Romance is likely to develop through the company you keep. Your numbers are 6, 14, 17, 24, 26, 32

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Tension may be building if you are working on a deal that involves partnerships. Observe and let everyone show their true colors before you make a decision.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Someone you care about may be emotionally sensitive today. Your patience will be required. Compromising is not such a bad idea.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You will add a little pizzazz to everything you do today. Be sure to get the credit you deserve. You can advance if you are honest, professional and true to yourself.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): This is your day to shine. Let your creative soul develop. You have some terrific ideas and if you trust in yourself you will be able to convince others of your talent.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You will have to do some fancy footwork if you want to clear up personal matters. If you try to avoid pressing issues you will find yourself in a worse position. This is not the time to run but to do whatever is necessary.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You will be intense when dealing with friends and relatives today. Say what's on your mind and you will get what you want. You have more control than you think so don't be shy.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Career opportunities are evident. You can change your position or improve your status through the company you keep. Focus on your goals but don't lose sight of your dreams.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): The green-eyed monster may haunt you today. Don't overreact to a situation that you may have conjured up in your own mind. Travel will lead to enlightenment.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Keep a close eye on what everyone else is doing and don't lose sight of your own vision and ideas. If you must go it alone to accomplish your goals don't be afraid.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Get involved in something you truly believe in and you will get the satisfaction you're looking for. Many good connections can be made through humanitarian groups that you join. Get active and prosper.

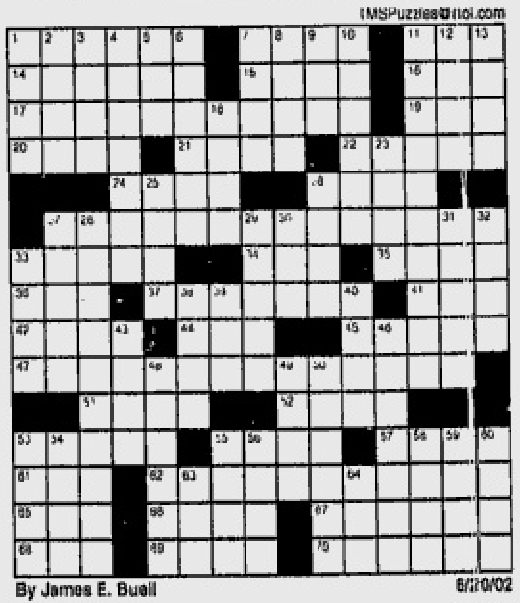
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't be too quick to sign a contract or agreement today. You're ready to make some personal changes and you might want to do so first. Don't be afraid to go the distance.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll be busy today. Set the parameters regarding what you can and can't do. It's time to make changes that will lead you in a better direction. Love and romance should highlight your day.

Birthday Baby: You will want to contribute something special that you'll be remembered by. You will enjoy philosophical studies. You will want to travel and explore foreign countries.

DAILY CROSSWORD

IMSPuzzles@aol.com



By James E. Buell
Edgewater, FL

6/20/02

ACROSS
1 Having a longer face
7 Uproarious party
11 Dollop
14 Go to extremes
15 Jai __
16 Fury
17 Sensitive issue
19 Religious prohibition
20 Writer Quindlen
21 Bounding mains
22 Orange-yellow birthstone
24 Aussie's friend
26 Actor Richard
27 Footnote's function, often
33 Looks __ everything
34 Leading ISP
35 Workplace safety grp.
36 Harris or Gibson
37 Car-door convenience
41 Acoustic organ
42 Biblical rib donor
44 Have a hero?
45 Rubber Capital of the World
47 Newest news
51 Garden bloom
52 Chirp
53 Kind of story
55 Gobi's place
57 Golf gadgets
61 Title role for Will Smith
62 Frantic rush
65 Tennis grouping
66 Part of CPU
67 Actress Piper
68 Small bread
69 Strokes gently
70 Upolu resident

DOWN
1 Wrigley Field slugger
2 Stratford's river
3 Actress Laura
4 1976 Aerosmith hit
5 Harris and O'Neill
6 Awakens
7 __ California
8 Pale potables
9 Pouch
10 Fly swatter?
11 ATMs and vending machines
12 Diva's moment
13 Mercedes-__
18 Porter or stout
23 Dunkable treat
25 Cinema pooch
26 Salon goops
27 Words to live by
28 Einstein's theory
29 Topsoil
30 Adversary
31 Pandemonium
32 Merit
33 Indian nanny
38 Umps' cousins
39 Tangled mass
40 Container weight
43 Encore!
46 Hold one's tongue
48 Become stable
49 Larger-than-life
50 Beads of wisdom?
53 Supporting players
54 Butter's bro
55 Mine access
56 Mach 2 breakers
58 Spanish river
59 Director Kazan
60 Glimpsed
63 Santa __ winds
64 Small battery designation

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

A	D	A	M	S	■	K	E	L	P	■	A	C	R	E
L	E	A	S	H	■	E	M	I	R	■	T	O	I	L
P	L	A	G	I	A	R	I	Z	E	D	B	O	C	K
O	L	A	■	P	I	N	T	■	T	O	A	S	T	S
■	■	■	O	W	L	S	■	P	E	S	T	■	■	■
L	L	A	N	O	S	■	L	A	N	E	■	W	A	G
E	A	T	E	R	■	E	O	N	S	■	S	A	R	A
A	S	S	U	M	E	D	I	D	E	N	T	I	T	Y
S	E	E	P	■	A	G	R	A	■	E	A	S	E	L
E	R	A	■	A	G	E	E	■	T	U	R	T	L	E
■	■	■	M	I	L	D	■	W	O	R	K	■	■	■
A	R	C	A	N	E	■	A	E	R	O	■	S	P	A
C	O	U	N	T	E	R	F	E	I	T	B	I	L	L
E	A	T	S	■	Y	A	R	D	■	I	O	N	I	A
S	M	E	E	■	E	G	O	S	■	C	A	G	E	S

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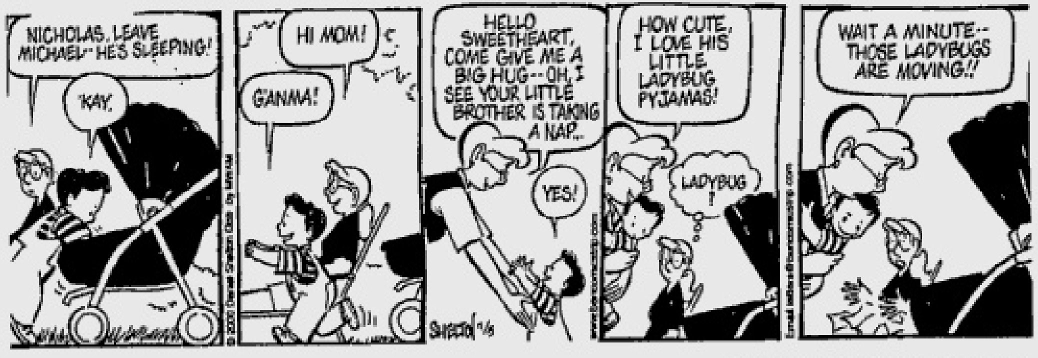
6/20/02

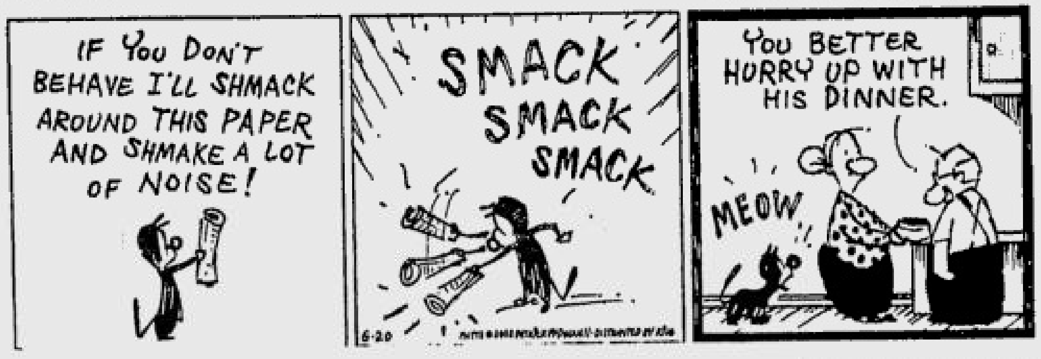
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


NICHOLAS, LEAVE MICHAEL-- HE'S SLEEPING!
'KAY.
HI MOM!
GANMA!
HELLO SWEETHEART, COME GIVE ME A BIG HUG--OH, I SEE YOUR LITTLE BROTHER IS TAKING A NAP...
YES!
HOW CUTE, I LOVE HIS LITTLE LADYBUG PYJAMAS!
LADYBUG ?
WAIT A MINUTE-- THOSE LADYBUGS ARE MOVING!!

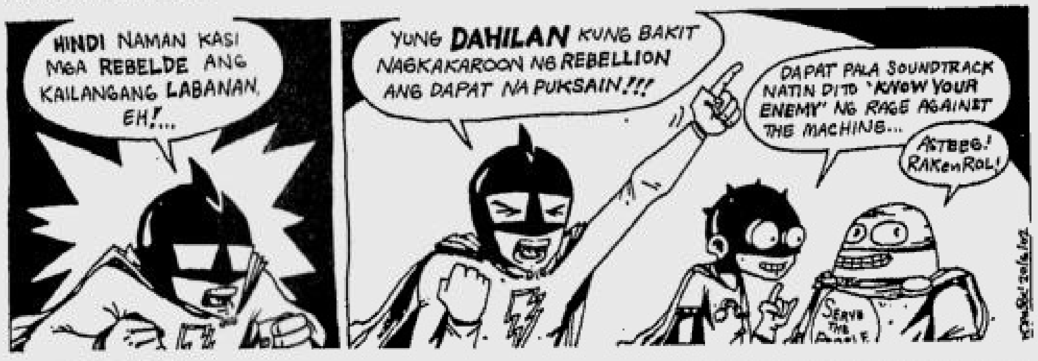
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


IF YOU DON'T BEHAVE I'LL SHMACK AROUND THIS PAPER AND SHMAKE A LOT OF NOISE!
SMACK SMACK SMACK
6-20
YOU BETTER HURRY UP WITH HIS DINNER.
MEOW

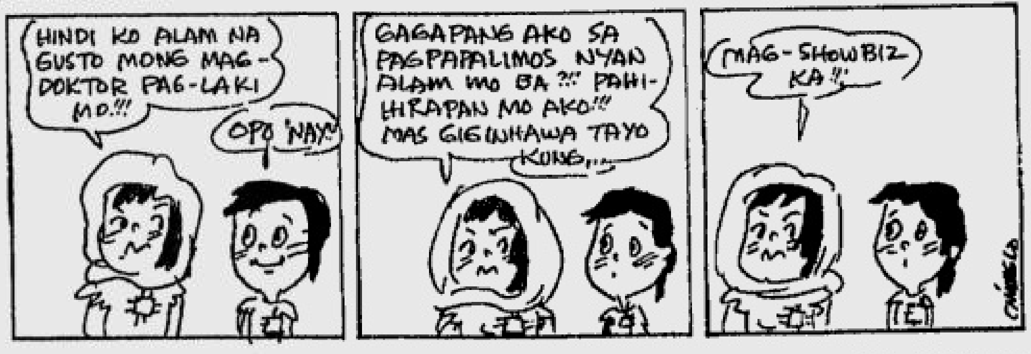
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


HINDI NAMAN KASI MGA REBELDE ANG KAILANGANG LABANAN, EH!...
YUNG DAHILAN KUNG BAKIT NAGKAKAROON NG REBELLION ANG DAPAT NA PUKSAIN!!!
DAPAT PALA SOUNDTRACK NATIN DITO 'KNOW YOUR ENEMY' NG RAGE AGAINST THE MACHINE...
ASTEEG! RAKenROL!
SERVE THE PEOPLE

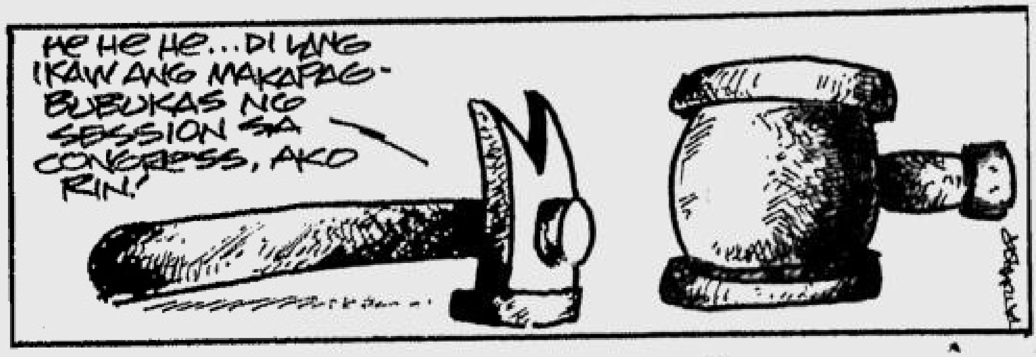
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

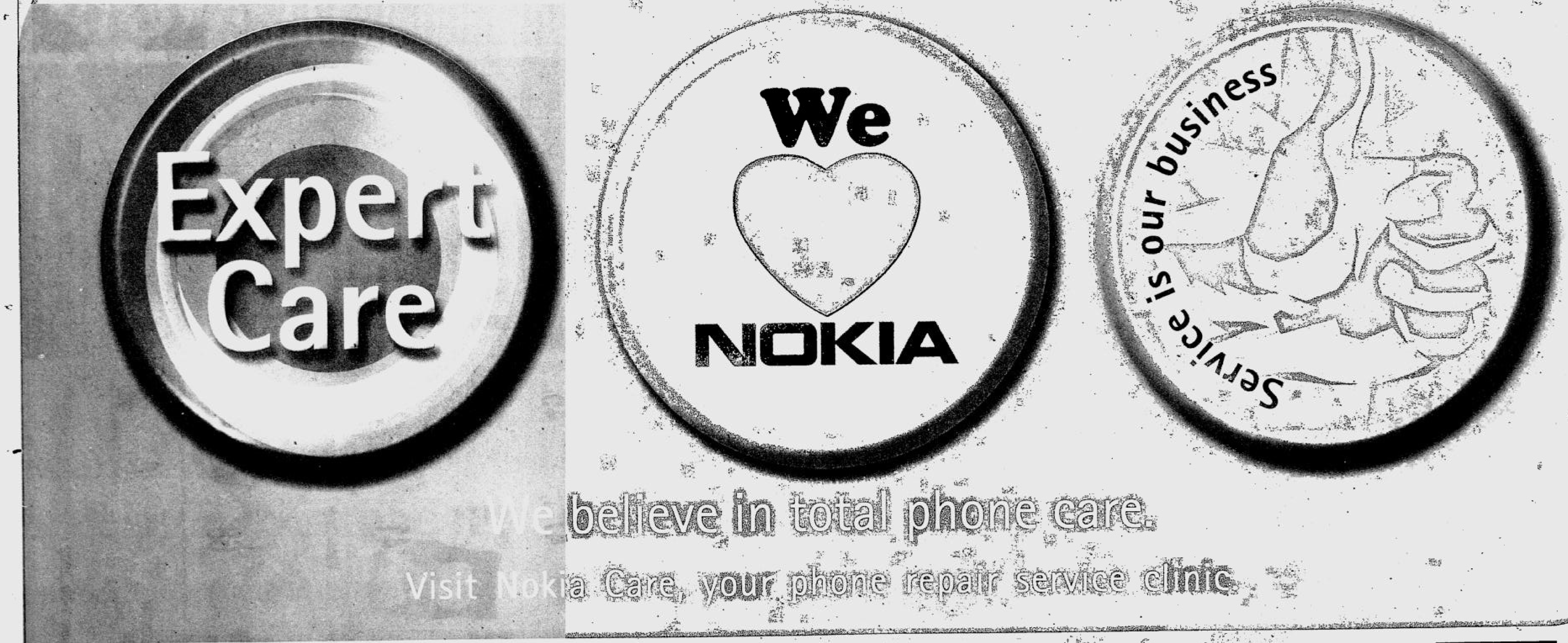

HINDI KO ALAM NA GUSTO MONG MAG-DOKTOR PAG-LAKI MO!!!
OPO 'NAY!
GAGAPANG AKO SA PAGPAPALIMOS NYAN ALAM MO BA?!! PAHIHIRAPAN MO AKO!!! MAS GIGINHAWA TAYO KUNG...
MAG-SHOWBIZ KA!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


HE HE HE... DI LANG IKAW ANG MAKAPAG-BUBUKAS NG SESSION SA CONGRESS, AKO RIN!

NOKIA
CONNECTING PEOPLE



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Cream All Refill Pack 300g P35 Ea
Great Taste Coffee Refill Pack 100g P41 Ea
San Nicolas Fresh Eggs Tray of 12's P35* /Tray
*Subject to change without prior notice
Crimson Seedless Grapes P135* /kg
Valencia Orange P68* /6's
Monterey Ground Beef P99* /kg
*Subject to change without prior notice *Subject to change without prior notice *Subject to change without prior notice

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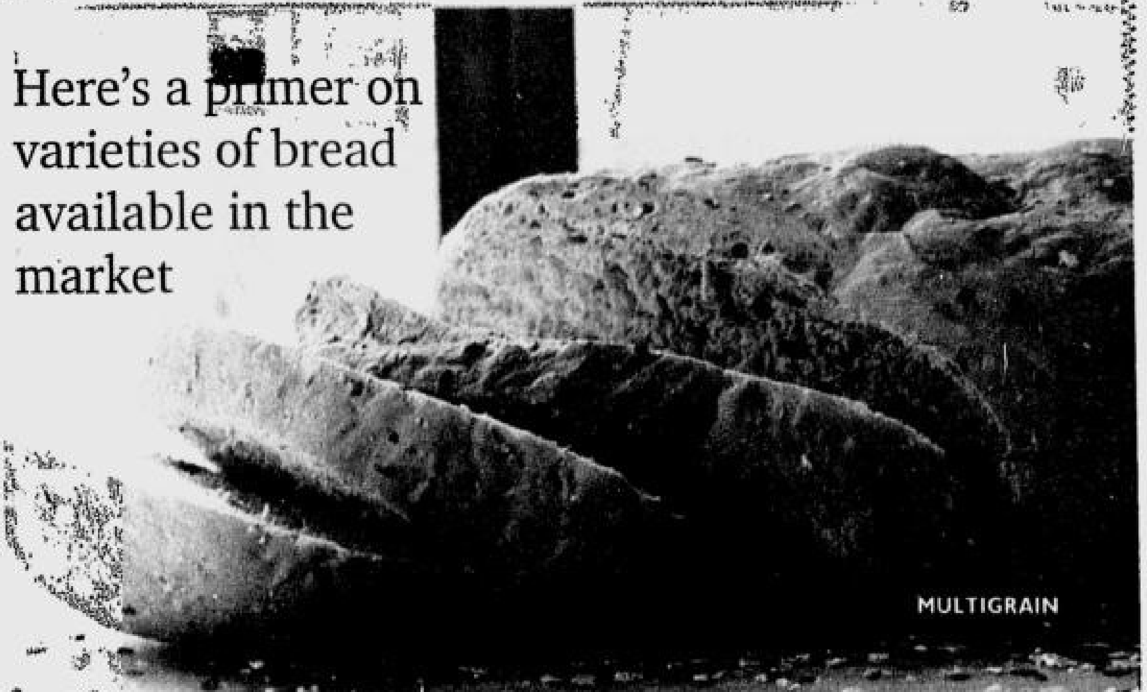
Here's a primer on varieties of bread available in the market


MULTIGRAIN

Bread winners:
From plain to fancy dough

By Cathy Babao Guballa
Photos by Mike Alquinto

TRUE, man does not live by bread alone. However, since the beginning of time, man has regarded bread as a source of nourishment. According to a website devoted to bread (www.bread.com), the first loaf of bread happened by chance. Legend says that around 2600 BC, an Egyptian slave was making flour and water cakes. He fell asleep and the fire went out before the cakes were baked. Kept in a warm environment overnight, the dough and the resulting "cakes" were much more pleasant to eat than the thin, hard cakes they were used to eating.

ONION bagels

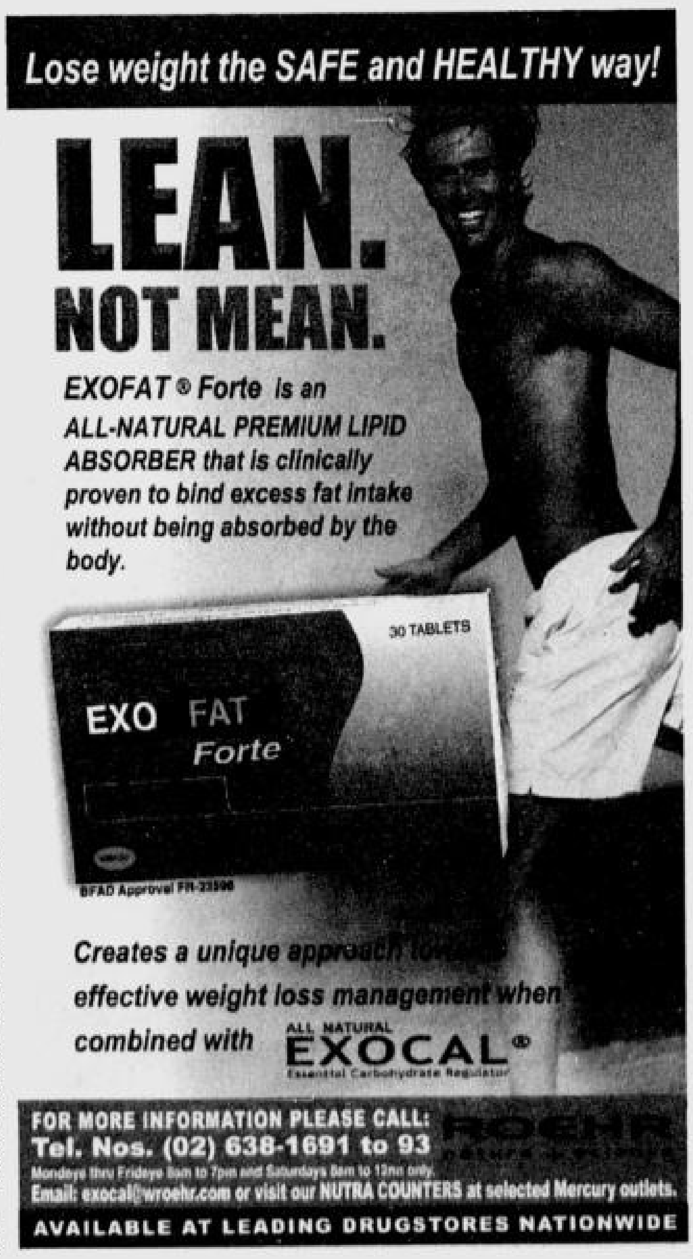
Bread has certainly evolved since those accidental cakes were baked. They now come in various shapes, sizes, tastes and colors depending upon the purpose and the country where they originated. There is French bread, Greek pita, Italian focaccia, Jewish bagels, and the humble but equally delicious Pinoy *pan de sal.*

Varieties

In the Philippines alone, bread comes in varieties that would perhaps rival the number of islands in the country, whether it's high tide or low tide. One thing is definite though—in times of hunger or plenty, bread in whatever form makes its way to the dining table.

Mary Rose Ramoso Peña, who studied at the California Culinary Academy in San Francisco and now owns restaurant bread supplier Gourmet Bread, enlightens Lifestyle readers on the more popular breads from around the globe.

WHEAT peasant and farmer's rye breads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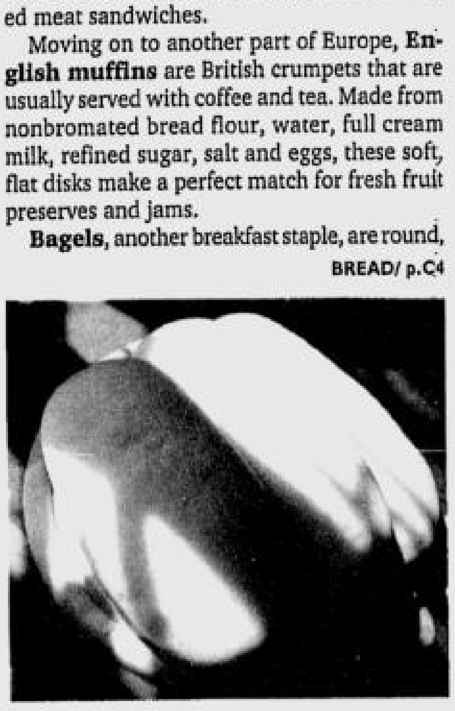
Focaccia, which traces its origins in Italy, is a moist, aromatic flat bread that envelops the flavors and herbs of the Italian countryside. The bread is a savory blend of bread flour, water, olive oil, basil and rosemary leaves, salt and yeast. It is the perfect partner for salads, soups and pasta. Peña says that focaccia is also perfect as appetizer bread since the aroma of newly baked focaccia can lightly perfume the dining table and whet the taste buds for the main meal.

Ciabatta is the Italian peasant bread shaped like a slipper. The bread's flavor comes from slowly fermented dough of nonbromated bread flour, water, milk, olive oil, salt, vital wheat gluten and yeast. Ciabatta is often used for grilled sandwiches like Panini, light cheese sandwiches, grilled vegetable or roasted meat sandwiches.

Moving on to another part of Europe, **English muffins** are British crumpets that are usually served with coffee and tea. Made from nonbromated bread flour, water, full cream milk, refined sugar, salt and eggs, these soft, flat disks make a perfect match for fresh fruit preserves and jams.

Bagels, another breakfast staple, are round,

BREAD/ p.C4


CIABATTA

THURSDAY,
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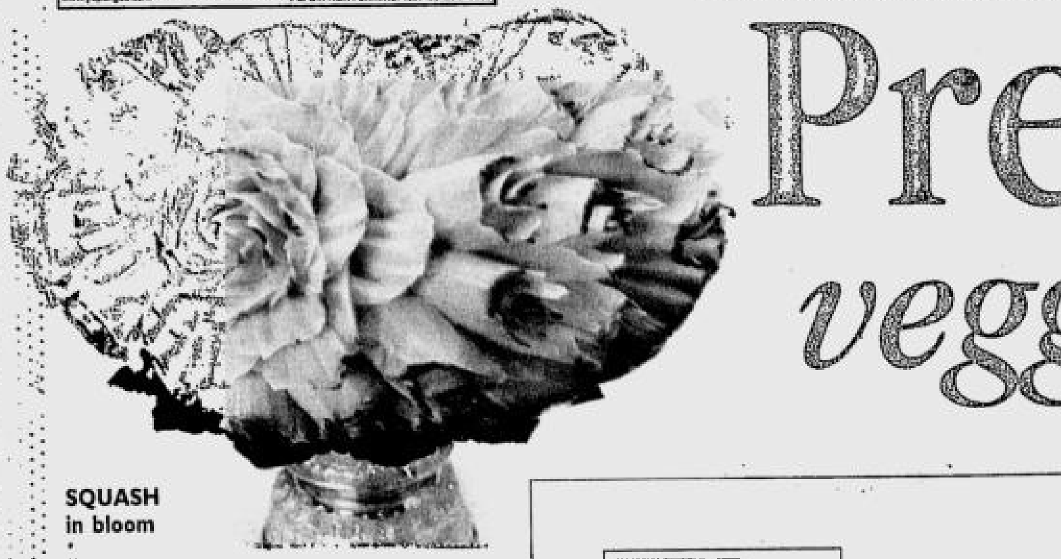
LIFESTYLE Tastes

Pretty veggies



SQUASH in bloom

Make fruits, vegetables and even soaps bloom. Learn to carve interesting floral pieces

By Anne A. Jambora
Photos by Johnny Villena

CREATE lovely flowers out of fruits and vegetables. The floral figures can make interesting conversation pieces during parties or family gatherings. Sure, it's not as easy as 1-2-3, and it may take a while before you attain perfection, not to mention that you may have to suffer a few cuts here and there, but it's a craft well worth it if you're patient and diligent enough to learn.

"Once you learn the basics of carving, you can carve anything as long as the material is adaptable," says Suwattee "Kun Mem" Teerapath, chef of the Benjarong Royal Thai Restaurant, Dusit Hotel Nikko (tel. 867-3333).

It was 25 years ago when Teerapath first saw a co-worker in a Thai hotel restaurant carving a fruit. Fascinated by the art, she took it upon herself to master the craft. That same day, she took home a watermelon and began cutting and slicing and carving.

"It took me three months to learn the basics of carving. The finished product wasn't really that good yet. But when I finally found my mettle, I began experimenting," she says.

Aptitude

She says the best fruit to work on for beginners is the papaya. The watermelon's texture is too soft and watery, especially for fledgling carvers who still have to feel the métier. "Fruits are generally easier than vegetables," she says. Carved vegetables can last for about a week, while fruits such as watermelon, three days. Both fruits and veggies need to be wrapped and chilled every day.

Teerapath accepts orders for fruit, vegetable and even soap carving, mostly from regular clients of the Benjarong restaurant who are amused by the soap carvings displayed on the tables. Some companies even call on her to do fruit and vegetable carving for their get-togethers or parties. The price of fruit and vegetable carving varies from season to season.

E-mail the author at splat_blag@excite.com

PRETTY/ p.D2

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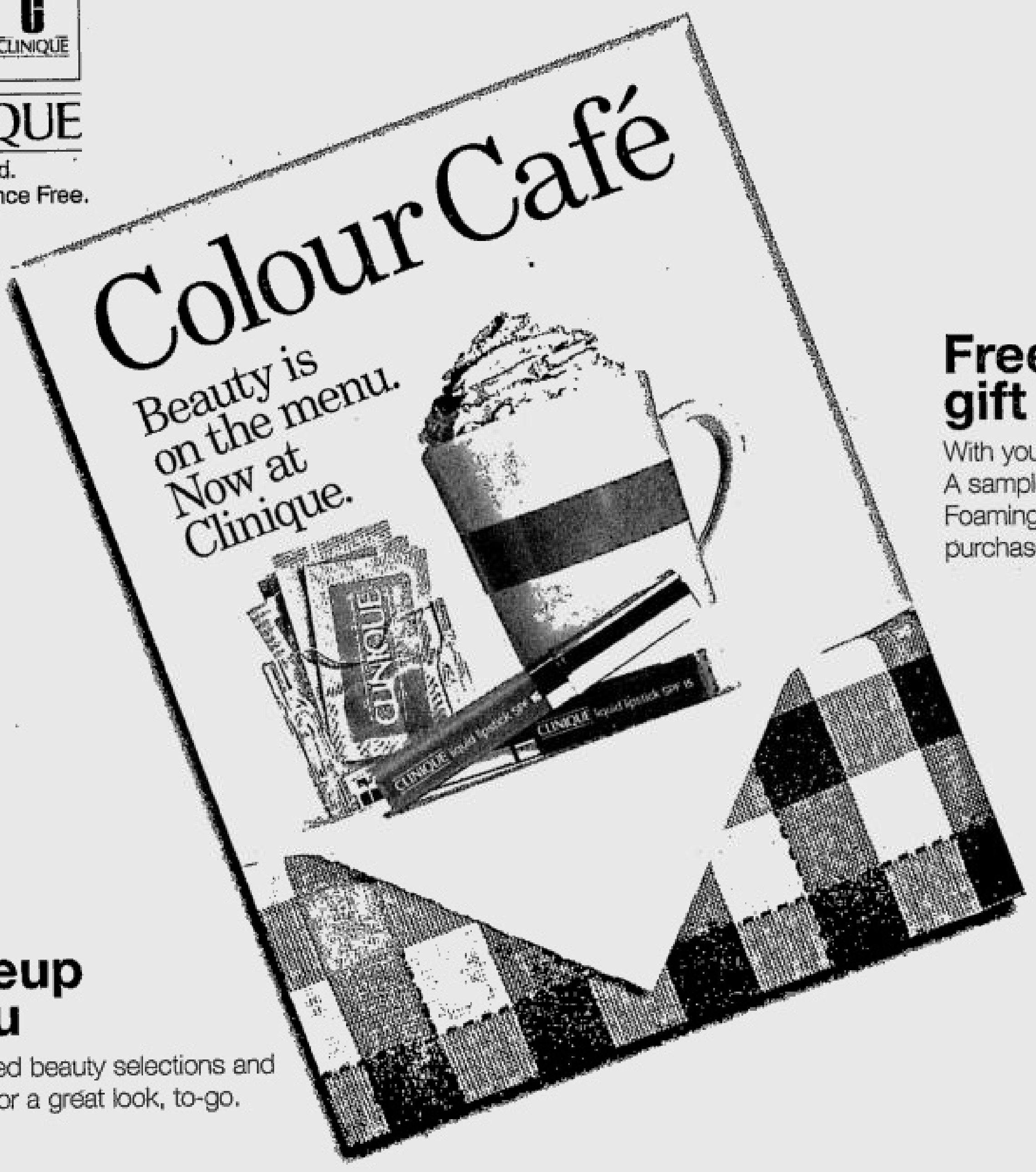

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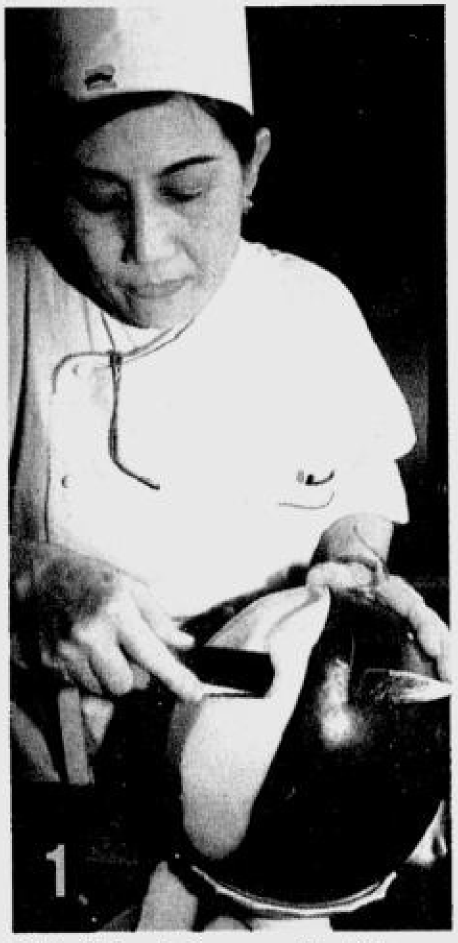
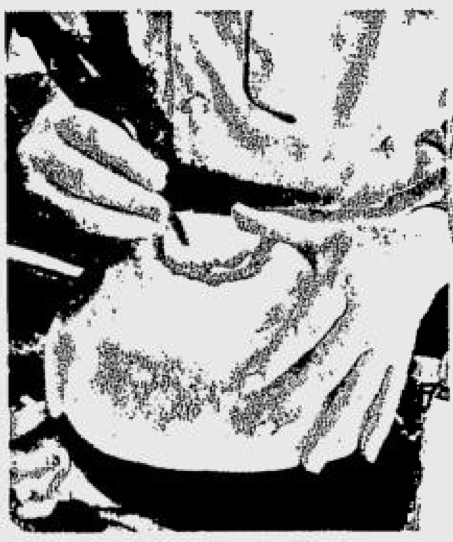
Pretty *veggies*

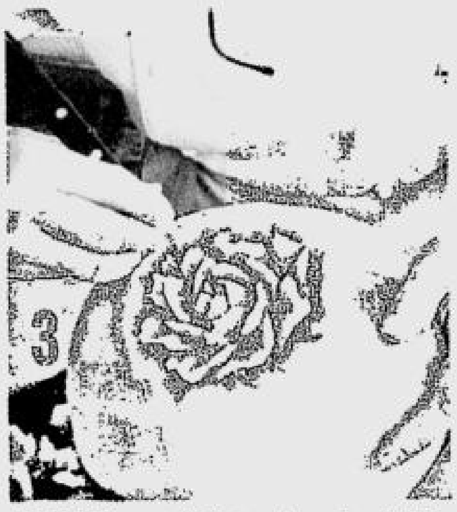
From page D1



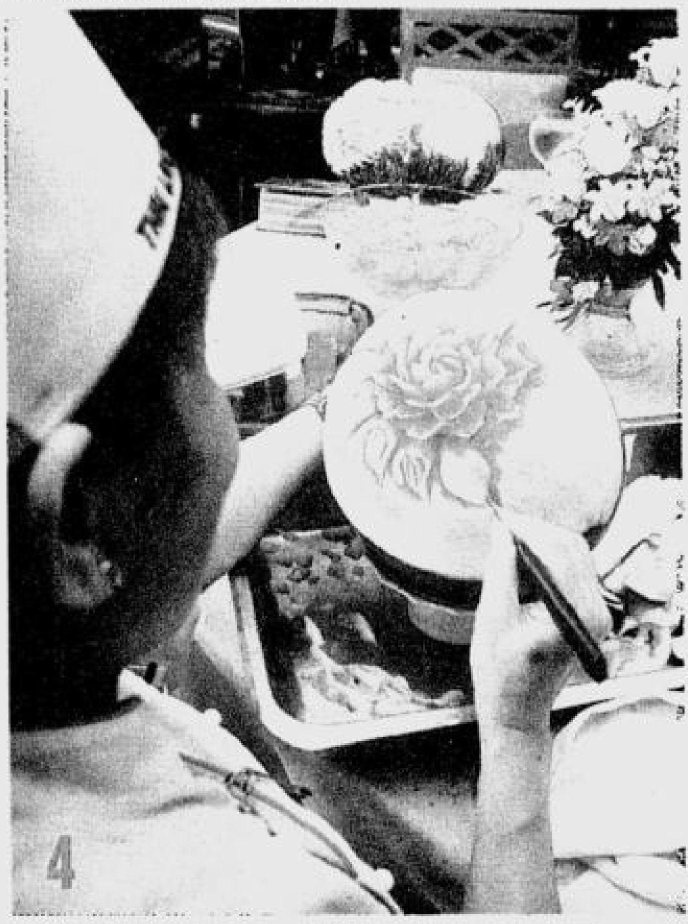
PEEL off the skin from one side of the watermelon with a knife.



MAKE a small, circular outline at the center of the peeled side of the fruit using a razor-sharp carving knife. This is where the first few petals will be carved.



TO FORM a petal, first make a short, thin layer in zigzag manner to mimic a flower's uneven curves. Then cut a thick layer beside it, still in zigzag manner, to make way for another petal and to create a space between them.

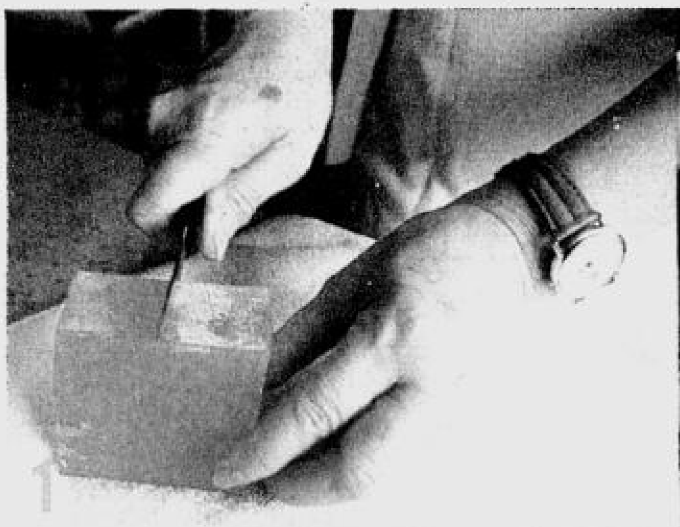


WHEN the flower in the small circle is done, create smaller flowers by carving an oblong outline around it. Work on the smaller flower within the oblong using the same procedure. Continue carving until one side of the watermelon is done.

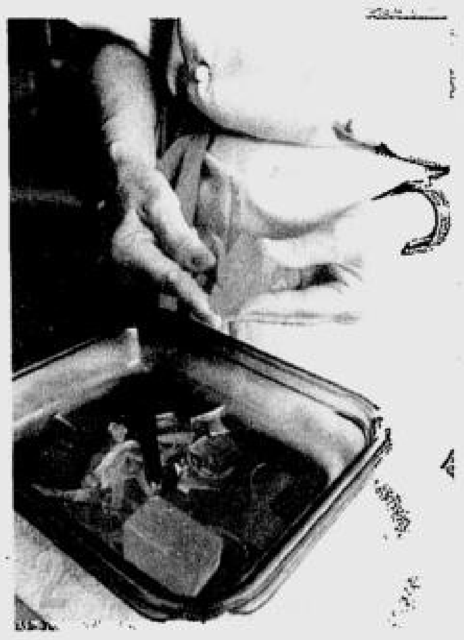
FLOATING carrot "flowers"

> 'Once you learn the basics of carving, you can carve anything as long as the material is adaptable'

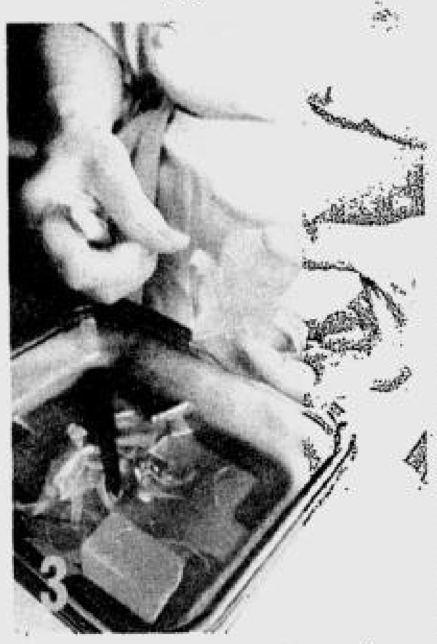
CHEF Suwattee Teerapath with her creations



CUT a block of soap in half, then carve to a cone-like shape. Work on the thin part first. (For roses, form a round shape instead, with a thicker bottom.)

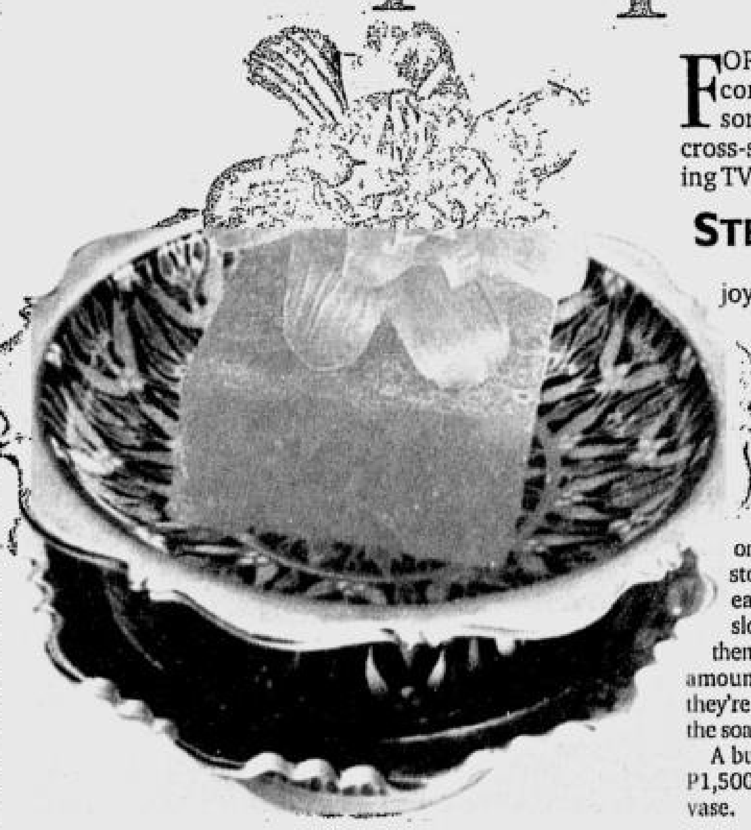


SLICE thin layers from top to bottom to form petals. Make sure to form each petal one over the other.



GENTLY bend the petals. Depending on the type of flower, you can opt to bend the petals either all the way down, halfway through or just around the tip.

Soap opera



STEP BY STEP

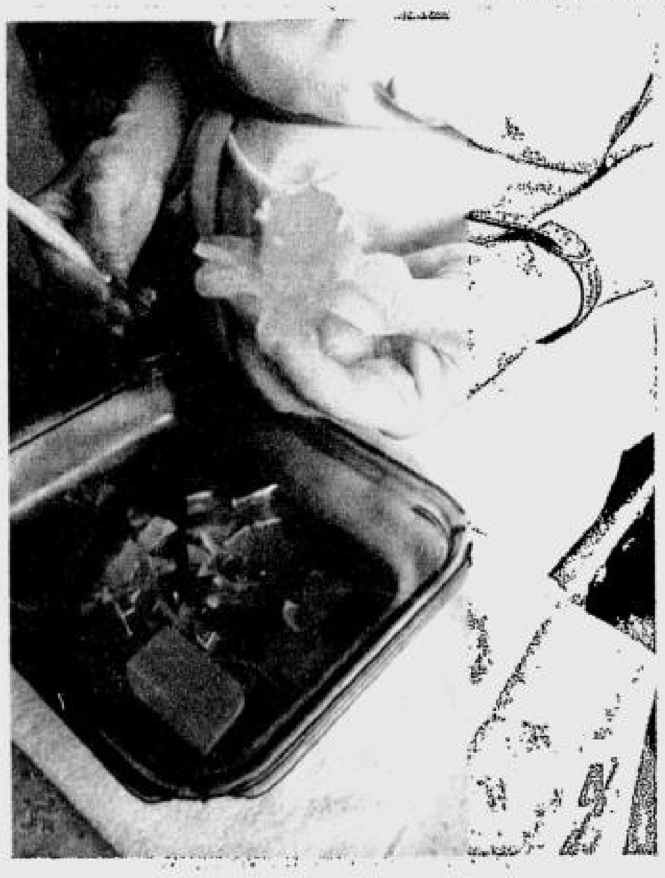
FOR TEERAPATH, carving has become a habit, a second nature of sorts. While some Filipinas probably cross-stitch or do crochet while watching TV, Teerapath carves soaps instead.

"Carving makes me happy. I enjoy the craft so much that when I was in Thailand, every time my husband drove me to work and we got stuck in traffic I carved soaps," she says.

The tricky part is carving soaps as they vary in consistency, depending on the chemical ingredients. So Teerapath uses "homemade" soaps in varying colors instead, available in most department stores in the metropolis. To make soaps easier to carve, Teerapath melts them in slow fire until they're in liquid form; she then molds them into blocks. "Just add a little amount of water when melting soaps. Once they're completely melted, stop the fire or else the soap will turn black," she says.

A bunch of about 20 soap flowers starts at P1,500, including arrangement and makeshift vase.

Anne A. Jambora



TO PERFECTLY form the petals, trim the tips in accordance to the flower you are creating—rose, lily, etc. Using the tip of the carving knife, create ridges if desired. Work on the inner petals by carefully slicing around the inside of the petals. Bend the petals if desired, but remember to gradually close the petals as you get near the center of the flower. Trim the tips of the petals.

Popular resto now franchising

BLUE Bacon & Green Eggs restaurant is now open for franchising. This was announced by Mike Prado, president of Blue Bacon & Green Eggs.

The new franchise will be called Blue Bacon Café. Five restaurants are initially available for franchising in Metro Manila. Each restaurant will have its own theme like "Venice," "Fairy Fantasy," "Under the Sea," "Circus" and "Harlequin."

Each Blue Bacon Café will have its own "collectibles shop" carrying an exclusive line of merchandise, ranging from home decor and novelty items that depict the theme of each Blue Bacon Café.

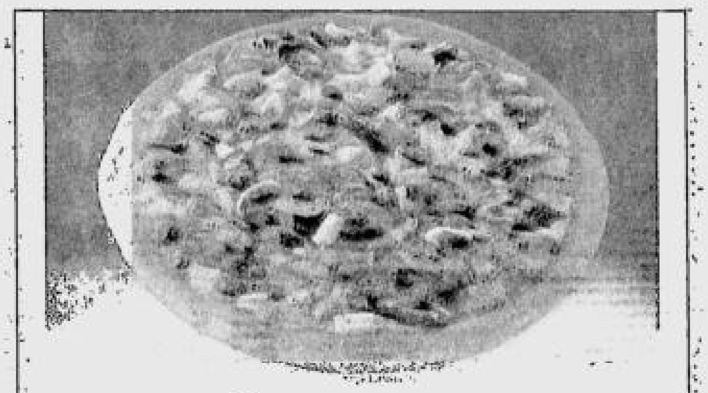
Prado said the decision to franchise the restaurant was in response to the interest shown by a lot of people. He said they received a lot of inquiries as early as the first year of operation about expanding the business and getting into franchising.

The six-year-old Blue Bacon & Green Eggs has been rated by noted gourmets, food critics and foodies as one of the finest restaurants in the country. Its fine cuisine continues to attract even the most discriminating diners. Prado says guests always have something new to try when they visit the restaurant. The restaurant even serves dishes that are not on the menu, as long as the ingredients are available.

Every month, the restaurant also comes up with interesting set menus highlighting some of its specialties. The current entree choices include Lobster Thermidor, Roast Beef with Shiitake Sauce, Seared Prawns, and Grilled Chicken Stuffed with Mushrooms. Desserts include Peach Jubilee and Bananas with Almond Rum Sauce.

Call Mhabie, Del or Rose at 721-2717/7680/2714 or e-mail blubacon@info.com.ph.

INTERIOR of Blue Bacon and Green Eggs



American-size pizzas mean more bite for your buck

THE COMPANY that stuffed your crust and brought your toppings to the edge introduces another whole new line of pizza that promises a taste of the American slice of life—literally.

Pizza Hut brings to Filipino pizza lovers the New American Classic, a whopping 14-inch authentic American pizza, 36-percent bigger than Pizza Hut's family size pizza!

• More bite for the buck is what the New American Classic is all about. The New York pizza is jampacked with nine toppings, loaded with beef, bell pepper, pepperoni, ham, Italian sausage, mushroom, onion and tomato slices, pineapple, and sprinkled with cheese and herbs.

For a hearty luau least, Pizza Hut goes to Hawaii for inspiration, with its toppings of bacon, ham and luscious pineapple chunks.

And for those with the hearty appetite of a cowboy, the Texas flavor is a meat masterpiece with crispy bacon, chunky beef, pepperoni slices and zesty spiced ham.

Pizza Hut has pulled all stops to welcome the New American Classic to Philippine shores, starting with a new TV commercial launching the new pizza. Top billing the ad is—who else?—Diether Ocampo, who is now on his third year as Pizza Hut's product endorser.

Pizza Hut, the recognized leader in the $25 billion pizza category, is the largest pizza chain in the world. Pizza Hut is a division of Yum Brands Inc. and has more than 8,000 restaurants in the United States alone and over 4,000 branches in more than 90 countries.

The Zen in tea

IT'S GOOD hot or iced, but The French Baker, knowing the Pinoy's penchant for invention, is offering surprising alternatives to enjoying one of the world's healthiest beverages with the delightful variants of St. Dalfour Organic tea.

St. Dalfour Organic tea is now served at all The French Baker stores in Metro Manila, Pampanga and Metro Cebu.

Homestyle Gingered Tofu

3 c brewed regular-strength St. Dalfour Organic Earl Grey tea
1 pound extra-firm or pressed firm tofu, cut in 1-inch cubes
2 tsp fresh ginger, grated or chopped finely
¼ c tamari soy sauce, regular or low-sodium
¼ c arrowroot powder or cornstarch
½ c water or cooled tea (room temperature or cooler)
¼ c roasted, unsalted peanuts
3-4 scallions, green parts only, shredded
About 3 cups cooked rice (brown or basmati) or cooked pasta shapes

Pour the tea into a medium saucepan and bring it to a light boil. Add the tofu and boil for 10 minutes over medium heat. Remove the tofu to a plate or bowl with a slotted spoon. Measure 2 cups of the remaining tea, and return it to the saucepan (water your plants with what's left when it cools). Add the ginger and tamari soy sauce to the saucepan, stir and bring to a boil. Mix the arrowroot or corn starch with the water or cooled tea until smooth. Pour slowly into the saucepan, stirring. Continue to stir until the sauce thickens. Lower the heat to simmer, and add the peanuts and scallions, and cook, stirring, for another minute. Remove from heat and carefully add the tofu, stirring gently. Serve over cooked rice or pasta.

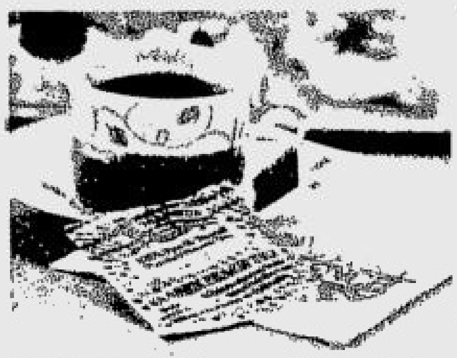
Variation: In place of peanuts, try slivered toasted almonds, or slivered water chestnuts for the same crunch and lower fat, but less protein.

Hot and Sour Sesame Noodles

3/4 pound linguine, fettuccine, or egg-less noodles
1 tsp sunflower or peanut oil, or other light oil
¼ c tomato paste
¼ c rice vinegar
1/3 c St. Dalfour Organic Earl Grey tea, prepared at regular strength
2 tbsp maple syrup or rice syrup or alternative liquid/syrup sweetener
1 tbsp tamari soy sauce
1 tsp garlic powder
½ tsp crushed cayenne pepper flakes
1 tsp *gomasio* (sesame salt), plus additional
1 tsp sesame oil

Prepare the noodles to al dente tenderness. Drain and either return to the pot if serving this dish hot, or rinse with cold water and place in a large bowl if serving cold. Either way, toss the cooked pasta with the oil; set aside. Mix the tomato paste and vinegar together in a small bowl. Add the remaining ingredients, using the 1 tsp of *gomasio*, and mix well (a whisk is good for this). Spoon the sauce over the pasta and mix well to coat. Sprinkle the top of each dish lightly with additional *gomasio*.

Variations: Substitute apple cider vinegar or balsamic vinegar for the rice vinegar. Use two large cloves of roasted garlic, minced, in place of the powder. Add any or all of the following to the noodles before mixing with the sauce: ½ pound tofu (Chinese-style, extra-firm or well-pressed firm, cut in ½-inch dice); a cup of fresh mung bean sprouts; a cup of lightly cooked chopped broccoli; a ½ cup of slivered canned water chestnuts; a ½ cup of slivered raw or lightly cooked snow peas. If you don't want to add salt, sprinkle the top with plain toasted sesame seeds, whole or crushed, in place of the *gomasio*. Or garnish with thinly sliced scallions.

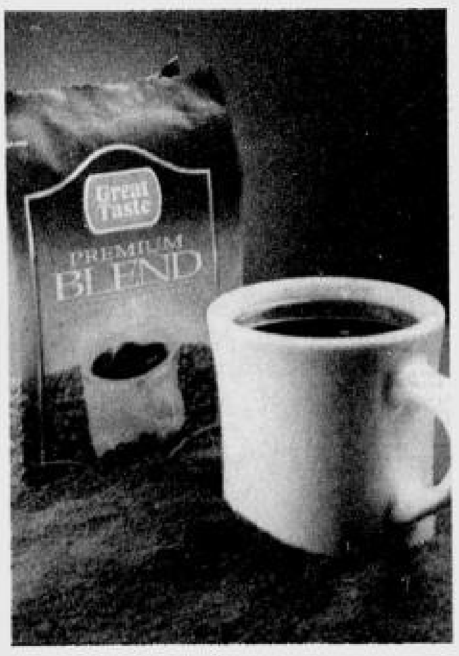


GOLDEN Peach Tea, one of the variants of St. Dalfour Organic teas, maintains its fidelity to the ripe berry goodness of peach while celebrating its harmony with the healthful properties of tea. Available at all outlets of The French Baker.

TASTE TESTS

POPCORN
POPCORN
POPCORN

SEACHAMP International's line of easy-to-prepare gourmet seafood consists of the Polar Brand Shrimp Popcorn, made from real peeled shrimp pieces and comes in three flavors: plain, Mexican barbecue, and sour-cream-and-onion. Seachamp's Polar Brand Seafood Popsticks—fish, squid, shrimp and cuttlefish balls skewered in bamboo sticks, are ready to fry. Sandwiches can use non-traditional fillings with Seachamp's Polar Brand Fish Franks (all-fish hotdogs with less than 2-percent fat), or the Polar Brand all-natural Fish Burger Patties (which have 83 percent less fat than a regular hamburger). Available at Rustan's, Shoemart, Robinson's and Shopwise branches, Unimart, the Landmark and other leading supermarkets. Call 831-6331 or 833-1614.



GREAT Taste introduces Great Taste Premium Blend from the choicest coffee beans. Great Taste Premium Blend is made of 100 percent pure coffee powder, roasted to perfection. The new Great Taste Premium Blend is also affordable and comes in 28g sachet, 25 g and 50g budget packs, 100g economy pack, and 50g glass tumbler. Available in leading supermarkets and groceries nationwide.

IN JULY, Delifrance will introduce its New Pasta Line, including Pesto, garnished with aromatic basil, garlic and olive oil, and Seafood Marinara, which is made from premium shrimps, slices of crabstick and fish fillet in rich red sauce.

CINNABON
Baker's Combo

CINNABON Baker's Combos consist of a lemonade, iced tea or Café Americano with a Minibon, or a Mini-Chocobon, for P69 only, or with a Mini-Chocopecanbon, for only P79. Save up to P31. Cinnabon outlets are located at the Power Plant Mall in Rockwell Center, SM Megamall, Robinsons Place Manila, Robinsons Galleria, Podium Mall in Ortigas, Alabang Town Center, Shell Travel Plaza-North Luzon, Shell Travel Plaza-South Luzon, and at Shell-Magallanes.

MANG TOMAS
MANG TOMAS
MANG TOMAS
MANG TOMAS
All-Around Sarsa

Tsalap, Tsalap Tocho!

Gawing hindi basta-basta ordinaryo
ang inyong Tocho.
Buhusan ng bagong sarap ng
Mang Tomas All-Around Sarsa.

Mang Tomas Tocho Special

INGREDIENTS:
1 kilo *bangus* (milkfish) belly
1 tbsp. Garlic, minced
2 tbsp. Onion, sliced
2 tbsp. Yellow bean
1 tbsp. Ginger, sliced thinly
2 tbsp. Datu Puti Soy Sauce
1/4 cup fresh tomato, sliced
1/2 cup MANG TOMAS ALL-AROUND SARSA
UFC Golden Fiesta Cooking Oil for frying

PROCEDURE:
1. Clean the milkfish. Deep fry and set aside.
2. Saute garlic and onion in oil. Add ginger, yellow bean and sliced fresh tomato. Saute for a few more minutes. Add the soy sauce and Mang Tomas All-Around Sarsa.
3. Simmer for few minutes then add the fried milkfish. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

MANG TOMAS KUSINAbilidad
All-Around Sarap mula sa All-Around Sarsa

Gusto ba ninyong magka KUSINAbilidad? Abangan pa ang mga susunod na recipes at siguraduhing laging may Mang Tomas All Around Sarsa sa tahanan ninyo. Dahil with Mang Tomas, may dagdag sarap sa bawat luto.

Showcase of Asian cuisine

DINING-OUT

FOOD CHOICES, the food court area of Alabang Town Center (ATC) has more than 25 food outlets and restaurants: **Japs** offers California maki and tempura, sushi, Katsudon or Breaded Pork Sirloin in Japanese Rice Topping, Yakisoba and Gyodon. **Baliblue Express** features Indonesian cuisine like Nasi Goreng, Sate, Gado-gado, and Beef Rendang, Indonesian BBQ made of chicken (*sate madura*) or beef (*sate maranggi*) and *empal* or spicy beef. **Red Ginger** is a Thai restaurant which serves Sizzling Chicken Sate with Bagoong Rice, Mixed Veggies and Tom Yum Soup, Chicken Pandan, Spring Rolls, Beef and Chicken Curry, and Fried Fish in Ginger or Red Thai Sauce. If it's ensaymada and other pastries that you are looking for, **Hizon's Cakes and Pastries** is definitely the place to go.

ITALIANNI'S Restaurant offers the perfect alternative—Light Meals. Choices include the restaurant's popular pastas like Fettuccine Alfredo, Shrimp Linguine, and Angel Hair Pomodoro as well as house specialties like the Herb Roasted Chicken and Spinach and Artichoke Formaggio. Also available are the Barbecue Chicken Pizza, Pepperoni pizza and Caesar Salad. The Light Meal selections are only available from 3-6 p.m. and from 10 p.m. onward.

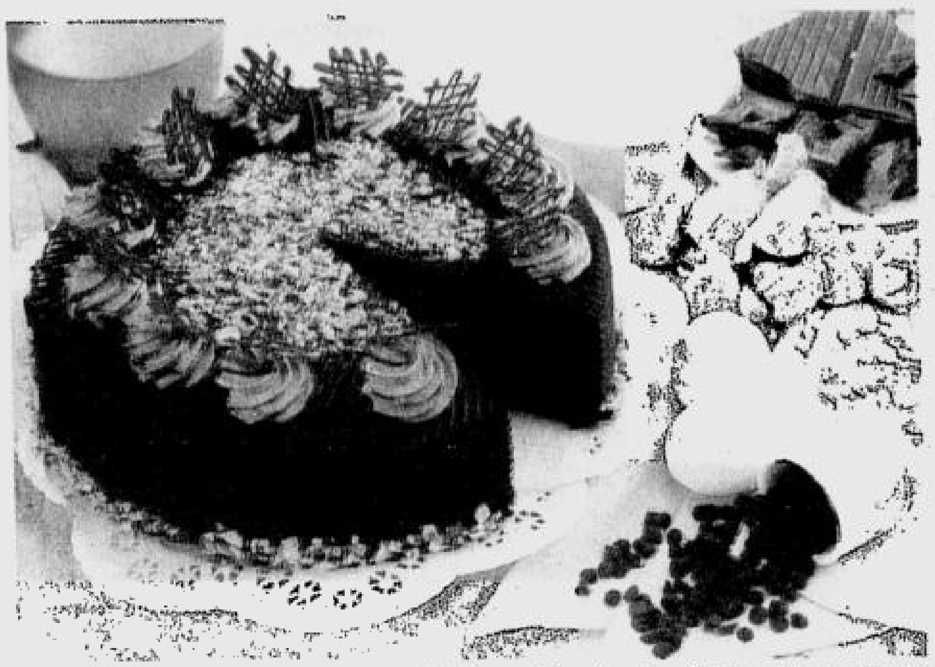
Italianni's Restaurant is now located at the G/F, Greenbelt 2, Ayala Center, Makati City. Call 728-0291/0283.

Also check out Italianni's Bakery & Café at the 2/L of Glorietta 4, Makati City and the Corte delas Palmas of the Alabang Town Center.

CAFÉ ASTORIA offers buffet lunch daily from 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. It features the specialty dishes of Davao, Cebu, Iloilo, Pampanga and Bacolod under the Filipino/Asian buffet theme on Mondays and Wednesdays. Every Tuesday and Friday, Italian and Mediterranean dishes are showcased, including pasta with a wide variety of sauces. Continental menu with Roast Pork, Beef or Chicken carving is offered every Thursday and Saturday. And on Sundays, an international buffet brunch is featured. Café Astoria is at the G/F of Astoria Plaza, Ortigas Center. Call 687-1111 or visit at 15 J. Escriva Drive, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

CALIFORNIA PIZZA KITCHEN has cooked up deliciously sinful desserts that are hard to resist. Consider the Hot Fudge Brownie Sundae, an old-fashioned brownie topped with luscious vanilla cream, triple thick hot fudge, swirled with a fresh whipped cream topped with a cherry. For a warmer confection, a must-try is the Apple Crisp ala mode, which is made from Granny Smith apples, baked with crispy brown sugar and butter toppings. An added serving of caramel sauce is available, or for a la mode, vanilla ice cream. Finally, there's the classic Tiramisu, but with a CPK twist. Sweet Italian cream cheese and marsala custard sit between layers of espresso and rum-laced lady fingers topped with shaved bittersweet chocolate.

All these sweet treats are available at California Pizza Kitchen with branches at the Glorietta of the Ayala Center, Alabang Town Center and at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall.



MAXIM'S Pastry Shop whips a truly sinful Ginger Chocolat, the Manila Midtown Hotel's June Cake of the Month. It has a generous chocolate blend with a distinctive hint of ginger topped with freshly chopped cashew nuts, rich mocha icing and chocolate shavings. Taste this special cake for only P55 per slice. Call 526-7001 local 6561.

DUSIT HOTEL NIKKO presents "The King's Table" at the Benjarong Royal Thai Restaurant until June 21. It features Kalaweg Sotsi (minced shrimp and pork with sauce wrapped in egg wrapper), Me Kay Chom Suan (boiled chicken and egg with vegetable salad), Keng Jud Luk Lak (egg sausage soup), Talay Klang (flied seafood with hot basil leaves), Pet Op Karfe (duck sautéed in coffee), Pla Lam Durn Din (beef with peanut sauce and Lang Long), and Tap Tim Sayam (water chestnut in various colors with coconut and ice). Call 867-3333 locals 3301 to 3303.

MANILA GALLERIA'S Raphael Café-Restaurant presents a two-week International Food Festival until June 23. Enjoy Hungarian Beef Goulash, Seafood Thermidore, Spaghetti with Oyster Cream and Parmesan, Chicken Wing Yakitori, Fried Burritos and Spicy Tofu Steak. Have your fill of Poached Mackarel on Leek, Asohos Tempura and Mini Cheese Pizzas and relish Roast Beef with Horseradish, Smoked Sugar Ham with Fruit Sauce, Grilled Whole Kingfish with Garlic Butter or Leg of Lamb with Rosemary. Then indulge in Blueberry Cheesecake, Key Lime Pie and *halo-halo*. Call 633-7111 local 7416/7440.

MANILA MIDTOWN HOTEL'S Vogue Coffeeshop gives diners an extra treat as it presents a 3-week Filipino buffet spread until June 23.

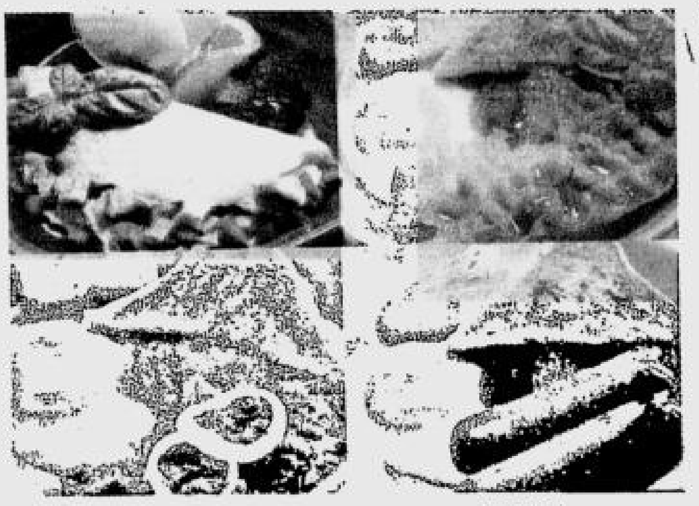
Sample delectable native selections such as Lumpiang Sariwa, Mariggang Hilaw and Tokwa't Baboy and main courses like Sinigang, Kare-Kare, Tamales na Hipon and Lapu-Lapu sa Pinya. Then cap this with fine and delightful desserts like Leche Flan, Sapin-Sapin and Sweet Macapuno. Savor this extra special buffet spread for lunch and dinner. Call 526-7001 local 6554.

NEW WORLD RENAISSANCE HOTEL presents "A Taste of Vietnam" until June 30 at the hotel's Emperor Court. Vietnamese favorites such as: Lotus Steam Salad, Shrimp Dumpling and Crabmeat Congee, Shellfish in Spicy Tomatoes, and many others highlight the restaurant's daily lunch and dinner buffets, in addition to the delectable Chinese fare. Call 811-6888 local 3338.

HOTEL INTER-CONTINENTAL Manila's Café Jeepney features a four-course menu for lunch and dinner, which varies everyday until June 30. Featuring the best of Ilonggo, Bicolano, Pampango and other popular provincial cuisine. Also available is a special afternoon treat "Tea for Two at 332."

The hotel also presents the French Cheese and Wine Festival at the Prince Albert Rotisserie until June 29. Feast on Chef Cyrille Soenen's newest a la carte creations complemented by fine cheeses and smooth wines specially flown in from France. Indulge in Roasted Lamb with Garlic, Vegetable Fricassé and Smoky Thyme with Medoc wine. Go light and try the Simmered Sea Bass with Shellfish, Squid and Aniseed-scented Vegetables with Pouilly Fumé wine. Call 819-0645.

WINING and dining at the Prince Albert



MAX'S is now offering breakfast choices of Spanish Omelet, Bacon and Egg, Hotdog and Egg, or Corned Beef, served with toasts, at its new Alabang Town Center and other branches.

Plunge into the food business

MAYA Kitchen Culinary Arts Center offers once again its most popular Certificate Courses for Adults.

On June 10-21, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., move up to Cooking II: Comprehensive Cooking designed for career cooks.

On the same date, 1:30-5 p.m., there's also a Baking I: Basic class that teaches hands-on techniques on the preparation of basic pie crusts, different types of cakes, quick bread, yeast breads and other baked goods.

If you're raring to plunge into the food business, there are two classes to choose from: Restaurant Operations, June 21-22, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. for two consecutive days, and Bakery and Bakeshop on June 22, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Messmen, stewards and beginners will be interested in the Cooking I: Basic Cooking class scheduled on June 25-28, 1:30-5 p.m. Students will learn such topics as Basic Food Preparation; Cooking Methods for Vegetables; Pasta, Meats and Poultry Dishes; Techniques on Deboning Chicken and Fish; Basic Garnishing; Table Setting and Napkin Folding; and Actual Preparation of Popular Filipino and Oriental Dishes.

Visit the Maya Kitchen at the 8/F, Liberty Building, Arnaiz Avenue (Pasay Road), Makati, or call 892-1185 or 892-5011 local 108, or e-mail mayakitchen@pacific.net.ph.

Heny Sison

THE ESSENTIAL COOKING SERIES

The 20-day hands-on Essential Cooking Series with apprenticeship in a restaurant or bakeshop after graduation is our innovative way of teaching the basics of cooking and baking. This program is for anyone who wants to work toward becoming a professional chef.

Classes begin on June 20 and ends **August 2, 2002**. Classes are held every Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sign up now to secure your spot as the class size is limited to 16 students only and fill up quickly. Tuition fee includes ingredients, manual, chef's jacket, apron and chef's kit. For more information call Lirio at tel. #: 726-5316 and 412-7792.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

July 1 (Monday) 9:00-12:30 p.m. P2,500 SALADS AND MODERN SAUCES by: Jane Paredes, Chef / Food Consultant, co-owner of Café Cornucopia, trained at the Culinary Institute of America, Hyde Park, New York and Peter Kump's New York Cooking School *Green Salad Assembly with three dressings: Light Ranch dressing, Walnut & Blue Cheese Vinaigrette, Carrot and Basil Oil, Grilled Chicken and Crispy Noodles Salad with Sesame Dressing, Modern Caesar Salad with easy to make dressing, Potato, Apple and Smoked Bacon Salad with Warm Vinaigrette, Pineapple Barbados with Rum Butterscotch Sauce. **Demo w/ student in participation.**

July 1 (Monday) 2:00-5:00 p.m. P1,700 BURGERS & DELI SANDWICHES by: Jane Paredes * Burgers: Shrimp Burger with Lemon Curry Sauce, Italian All Meat Burger, Beef Tex Mex Burger, Chicken Burger and Traditional Beef Burger **Sandwiches:** Grilled Mushroom and Steak Sandwich, Apple Turkey Pastrami and Swiss Cheese Sandwich Deli: Demo on how to home cure Turkey Pastrami

July 2 (Tuesday) 9:00-4:00 p.m. P2,500 CREPE WORKSHOP by: Jill Sandique, Chef / Food Consultant, & Food Stylist, Blue Ribbon graduate of Peter Kump's New York Cooking School *Learn the techniques of crepe making in this full participation class. **Recipes:** Crepe Suzette, Strawberry Crepe, Mango-Pandan Crepe, Crepe a la Mode, Spinach Roulade, Beggars Purses and Chicken Mushroom Crepe

July 3 (Wednesday) 9:30-5:00 p.m. P2,500 PIZZA CLASS WORKSHOP by: Chef Giorgio Bucciarelli, Master Pizzaiolo & Barista, Food Consultant of various Italian restaurants all over Metro Manila, graduated at Culinary Institute, Milan, Italy *In this class you will learn the history, concept and design of pizza making. Learn how to make pizza dough, tomato base sauce, white sauce base, preparation, setting up pizza counter, know the ingredients and toppings. **Recipes:** Margherita, Napoli Classica, 4 Formaggi, Pizza Vegetariana, La Gibana, Piccantina, 4 Stagioni, Calzone & Frutti di Mare **Demonstration with student participation.**

July 8 (Monday) 9:00-4:00 p.m. P1,500 CAKE ART SPECIALTIES II by: Jill Sandique, *Flourless Chocolate Cake, French Apple Pie with Custard Sauce, Cappucino Charlotte, Spiced Apple Cake with Caramel Pecan Sauce and Sesame Spice Cookies

July 9 (Tuesday) 9:00-12:30 p.m. P1,500 CANDIES & CONFECTIONS by: Jill Sandique, *Chocolate Walnut Fudge, Cashew Nut Brittle, Rocky Road Squares, Hazelnut Chocolate Toffee, Penuche, Vanilla Cream Caramels, Fruit Drops and Butterscotch

July 9 (Tuesday) 1:30-4:00 p.m. July 10 (Wednesday) 9:00-4:00 P3,500 THE ART OF PLATED DESSERTS: A WORKSHOP (Demo-Participation) by: Jill Sandique, p.m. *Provide the perfect ending to your guests dining experience with beautifully plated desserts. Learn production and presentation techniques which emphasize flavor, texture and color. Plate compositions include The Skyscraper, Napoleon of Lemon Verbena, Crème Brulee, Autumn Fantasy, Frozen Fruit Parfait and more!

July 15 (Monday) 9:00-1:00 p.m. P1,500 BASIC CAKES & ICINGS FOR BEGINNERS by: Heny Sison *Butter Cake with Butter Icing, Moist Chocolate Cake with Fudge Icing, Mocha Cake with No-Melt Butter Icing, Lemon Chiffon Cake with Boiled Icing & Sponge Cake with Whipped Cream Icing

July 15 (Monday) 2:00-5:00 p.m. P1,700 BAKED PASTAS by: Aileen Anastacio, *Chef / Food Consultant, owner of C'est Si Bon and Goodies N' Sweets, Dean's list graduate of culinary at the California Culinary Academy **Recipes:** Beef Lasagna, Vegetable Lasagna, Chicken Macaroni, Baked Spaghetti and Baked Seafood Pasta

July 16 (Tuesday) 9:00-4:00 p.m. P2,500 BAKING WORKSHOP FOR BEGINNERS 1 by: Heny Sison *Learn the basics of baking with supervision from start to finish. **Recipes:** Chiffon Cake and its variations with Boiled Icing, Butter Cupcakes, French Apple Pie with Streusel Topping and rich Custard Sauce, Fudgy Brownies, Chocolate Crinkles and Angel Cake. **Bring an apron.**

July 17 (Wednesday) 9:30-5:00 p.m. P2,500 FRESH PASTA by: Chef Giorgio Bucciarelli *There is simply no comparison between homemade hand-formed pasta and the store bought stuff. Homemade is not only tastier but a lot easier to make than you think. Learn how to make pasta egg dough, green spinach dough, black pasta dough, different kinds of pastas: lasagna, green lasagna, ravioli, tortellini, cannelloni, fettuccine: green & black, stuffing's for ravioli, tortellini and cannelloni. Sauces for lasagna, ravioli, tortellini, cannelloni. **Recipes:** Lasagna alla Bolognese, Lasagna al 4 Formaggi, Lasagna al Pesto, Cannelloni alla Ricotta and Spinaci, Ravioli alla Boscaiola al Burro e Salvia, Tortellini al 4 Formaggi, alla Panna Prosciutto e Funghi, Green Fettuccini alla Montanara, Black Fettuccine al Frutti de Mare. **Demonstration with student participation.**

July 22 (Monday) 9:00-4:30 p.m. P2,500 CHEESECAKE WORKSHOP: (Baked and No-Bake) by: Heny Sison *In this class you will learn the steps in making successful cheesecakes: **Recipes:** Blueberry Cheesecake, Chocolate Cheesecake, New York Cheesecake, Oreo Cheesecake, Marble Cheesecake & Caramel Pecan Cheesecake

July 23 (Tuesday) 9:00-12:30 p.m. P1,500 CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY RECIPES by: Heny Sison *Dark Fruitcake, White Fruitcake, Walnut Torte, Rum-Raisin Walnut Cheesecake, Festive Cookie Bar & Prune Bar

July 23 (Tuesday) 1:30-5:00 p.m. P1,500 FRENCH CLASSIC COOKIES by: Heny Sison *French Macaroons in 4 flavors (Coffee Macaroons, Hazelnut Macaroons, Chocolate Macaroons & Raspberry Macaroons), Madeleines, Lady Finger and Cats Tongue

July 24 (Wednesday) 10:00-4:00 p.m. P1,200 LAURIAT SAMPLER II by: Katherine Sion, restaurateur, (Ding Hao & Fat Kai), caterer and an expert in Chinese Cuisine *Quail Eggs with Chopped Meat Soup, Sliced Chicken with Soy Sauce, Barbecue Pork Spare Ribs, Fried Shrimps with Sweet & Spicy Sauce, Chinese Mushroom with Vegetable in Oyster Sauce and Candied Fried Bananas

July 29-30 (Monday-Tuesday) 9:00-5:00 p.m. P4,000 CAKE DECORATING COURSE I by: Heny Sison *Learn the basic of cake decorating: icings, color, star, shell, dots and outline borders; the rose, figure piping; clown & booties. You'll bake and decorate a character birthday cake. **Full participation.**

July 31 (Wednesday) 9:30-5:00 p.m. P2,500 SECONDI - PIATTI (The Best of Italian Second Dishes) by: Chef Giorgio Bucciarelli * Recipes: Ossibuchi Con Risotto Alla Milanese (Veal Shanks with Risotto, Milan Style), Scaloppine Di Vitello Al Limone (Scallop of Veal accented with Lemon juice), Scaloppine Al Marsala (Scaloppine flavored with Marsala wine), Pollo Arrosto Al Rosmarino (Roast Chicken with Rosemary), Salsicce In Umido Con Polenta (Sausage in Tomato Sauce with Polenta), Fegato Alla Veneziana (Calf's Liver Venetian Style), Pesce Spada Alla Livornese (Swordfish cooked, Livorno Style), Calamari Ripieni (Stuffed Calamari), Pesce Al Cartoccio (Baked Fish in Aluminum Foil), Scottadito Al Prezzemolo (Lamb Rack with Parsley) and some side dishes. **Demonstration with student participation.**

HENY SISON at Julius Maggi Kitchen, Nestle Bldg., # 31 Plaza Drive, Rockwell Center Makati City

July 19 (Friday) 1:00-5:30 p.m. P1,500 SPECIAL COURSE ON COOKIES *Chocolate Chip Cookies, Jam Thumbprint, Peanut Butter Cookies, Lemon Bars, Chocolate Cups, Oatmeal and Chocolate Crinkles

July 26 (Friday) 1:00-5:30 p.m. P1,500 CAKES WITH DISTINCTION *Sinful Chocolate Cake, Caramel Cake, Custard Cake, Canonigo with Crème Anglaise & Mango Coulis and Layered Brazo de Mercedes

July 27 (Saturday) 1:00-5:30 p.m. P1,700 SOFT PRETZEL WORKSHOP *Learn how to make hand-rolled soft pretzels with a variety of toppings and dippings: Cinnamon Sugar, Whole Wheat Soft Pretzels, Poppy Seed, Coarse Salt, Sesame Seeds and more! Match them with Cream cheese, Chocolate, Caramel and Soft Cheese dippings.

WATCH
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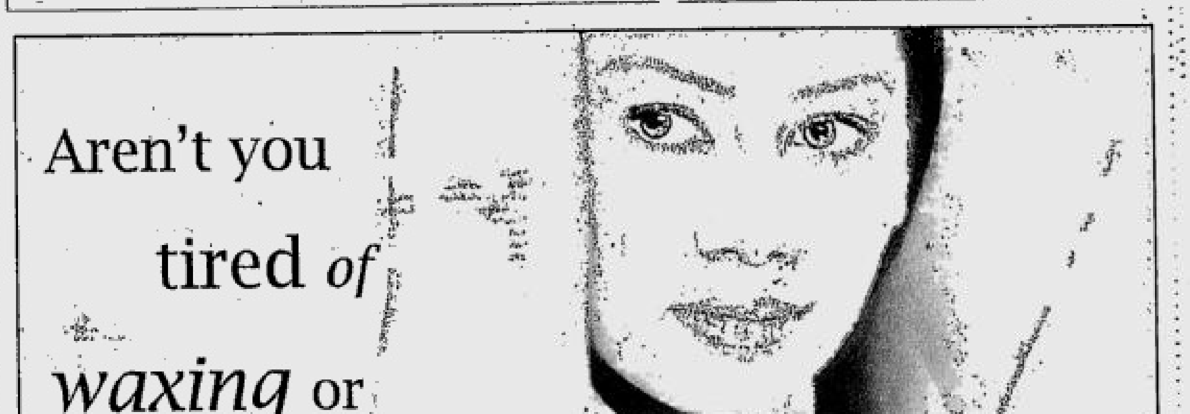

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LIFESTYLE

DETAIL of a gondola

Venetian contemplations

IT isn't really possible to write about Venice. In fact, most of the writers whose names have managed to rise above the endless sea of babble of lyricism that emerges from a visit to that city are almost apologetic in their approach; sometimes, it seems as though they are not writing about Venice so much as writing about being unable to write about Venice.

THE MAD TEA PARTY

Clinton Palanca

Indeed, perhaps the best way to describe the city is not to do so. I dare anyone to try and compose an informed piece about the city without using the phrases "drawing-room of Europe" and "the gateway to the Orient;" without mentioning Byron, Ruskin or Thomas Mann; without describing the gondolas as floating coffins and rubbing one's hands in glee at the heraldic metaphor of majestic death. It's pointless to photograph Paris because Doisneau and Cartier-Bresson have done it previously and definitively; it's similarly pointless to describe Venice. But taking a trip to Venice should not be considered travelling; it's not even about being a tourist.

It's a necessary exercise that anyone who has the opportunity to do so should. One takes violin or piano lessons not because anyone really imagines playing in Carnegie Hall one day, but because it is part of how one learns about music. In other words, there is nothing original to say about Venice. The only thing that might be of interest is one's experience of it.

One can learn more about Venice through its pasta than its plaster

I decided that if I were to undertake this pedagogy of place, I might as well do it properly. The Cipriani was closed for the winter, so I made reservations at the Hotel Gritti which, like the Danielli, has a long history of silly people doing silly things there, and basically living beyond their means. Quite fortunately, I have a long history and comfortable experience in this sort of thing, so I put myself up in a suite, ordered room service and a bottle of wine, and did a few pen and ink sketches while thinking about typically Venetian contemplations: death by suicide, swimming down the Grand Canal, that sort of thing. By midnight I was completely sloshed and was walking into walls, and managed to break a vase that turned out to be antique Murano and appeared on my credit card bill, despite my best efforts to disguise it as an avant-garde sculpture.

Detailing

Around this time I was also practicing my darkroom techniques, and the scenery of Venice is perfect for this, because you have black gondolas, murky water, chalky buildings and weak light; in other words, an absence of strong contrasts that force you to work on detailing. In order to keep to the spirit of my continental education, I left behind my trusty Leica and wandered about with a 4x5-inch plate camera, the kind with bellows that you have to get under a hood in order to focus. So while all the other tourists were snapping away with their digital cameras, I set up a tripod, fiddled around with the plates and enshrouded myself with my trench coat. When I emerged from my miniature tent, I found that a small crowd had gathered around me and was watching me expectantly, as though they were waiting for me to juggle bowling pins or vanish in a puff of smoke. I am printing two of these with this column; I am particularly proud of them because they are the only ones that came out. As for the rest, I

VENETIAN/ p.E3

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Per DOH-BFAD Permit No.0013, Series of 2002

So you want to be a rock star?

BIANCA Valero

BERNARD Palanca

J. LO has one. So does Sean "P. Diddy" Combs. And Cameron Diaz, Kevin Costner and Ralph Lauren. And now, locally, so do mega hunks Troy Montero, Victor Neri, Bernard Palanca, Hans Montenegro, Mico Palanca and KC Montero. Just what do they all have exactly? Star quality, definitely. But all these celebrities also show brains and business panache showcased by the restaurants and bars that they own.

The Montero brothers, the Palanca brothers, Neri and Montenegro have pooled their ideas and resources to come up with the latest, hottest, most rocking place in Libis: Rock Stars.

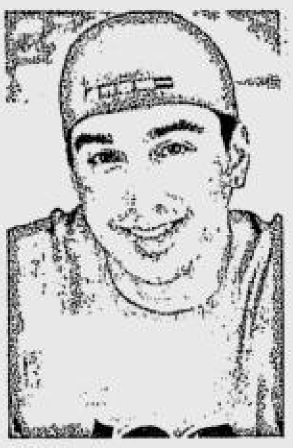
Rock Stars isn't just any ordinary bar. For one thing, the collective good looks of its owners is enough to draw a sizeable crowd. But more than that, its celebrity owners have recognized that everyone—bar none—has, at one time or another, had that secret urge to sing and be a rock star. Hence the name and the concept.

Rock Stars gives everyone, celebrities in particular, a chance to live the rock-star fantasy. So on any given day you can find a star or two onstage, jamming to their heart's content. The idea is sheer genius in its simplicity. Of course, Hans, Troy, Bernard, KC, Victor and Mico did not neglect the other details of Rock Stars. The drinks are excellent and the food superb.

THE PRIME Council Band

MICO Palanca and Jackie Forster

TROY Montero and Victor Neri



KC Montero

TASTEMAKERS

A gathering of cigar and wine lovers

WINE flowed and cigar smoke billowed at Mil Novecientos Tapas Bar and Bistro as restaurateur Larry J. Cruz recently hosted the third US Embassy Club monthly get-together. Special guest for the evening was Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, himself a cigar aficionado, who joined American and Filipino cigar and wine lovers in saying goodbye to outgoing US Consul Sony Busa, who founded the club. Busa is being assigned consul to Ethiopia.

Wine was sponsored by 9L, distributors of fine Australian wines who opened several bottles of their premium wine labels for tasting, while Tabac, official distributors of Cuban cigars in the Philippines, raffled off Habanas. Mil Novecientos prepared its specialty dish Paella Verde, while Cafe Havana's chef presented its signature dessert, Smokeless Cigar.

Other notable guests included Century Park Hotel GM Bobby Carpio, travel and tourism executive Bobby Joseph, and the US embassy's Maj. Don E. Bridgers, Philip Klapakis, Col. Steven Moores, Bruce Kahl, Consul Stuart Patti, Barry Barker, and Lt. Col. Dwight Kenyon, FedEx executive Sabrina Artadi, Manila councilors Miles Roces, Marlon Lacson, Don Bagatsing, Mitch Cuna and Manila City Hall's secretary Emmanuel Sison.

FOURTH CRAB

Red Crab launched its fourth restaurant in Alabang Town Center, Muntinlupa City. The heart and soul of the menu are the red crabs of which there are 14 crab dishes. On weekends, Red Crab (in Tomas Morato and Alabang) offers the Crab and Seafood Buffet for only P399+ per person—one can eat all the crabs and seafood one wants. Whether high or low tide, Raymund Eusebio Magdaluyo has to find ways of getting huge Dungeness crabs from Roxas City, Zamboanga, Pagadian, Masbate, Bataan and other places to all Red Crab stores. Raymund's mother, Chiqui Eusebio, a Pampanga-based real-estate broker who comes from a family of famous Capampangan cooks, built the first Red Crab in Clark in Pampanga in 1998.

SYSTEMPACK Inc. joins Foodmach 2002. Foodmach will supply solutions to the processing, manufacturing, packaging and handling needs of the F&B industry. Photo shows Rafael Dizon, chair of Premier Events Plus Group Inc., and Baby Mercado, representing Systempack Inc.

CELEBRITY couple Aga and Charlene Muhlach pose with Jollibee's Pinky Laurena before the movie premiere of "Star Wars Episode II: Attack of the Clones" at the Premiere THX Cinema in Makati. Proceeds of the premiere went to the Sa Aklat Sisikat Foundation, a literacy program for public school students.

IT'S A DATE

Show-biz personalities Hans Montenegro and Miriam Quiambao enjoy Berry Temptation and Cashew Dome Cake at the newly opened Cheesecake, Etc. at Robinsons Galleria.

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WORLD'S FOOD

WORLD'S Food and Trade Expo 2002 features "A Taste of Manila" on Aug. 2-4 at the World Trade Center. In cooperation with the Food Caterers Association of the Philippines, the event will feature different cuisines. Photo shows (standing from left) Jenny Villagracia (Beverly's Catering), Baby Hizon (Hizon's Catering), Eloisa Gabriel (Better Pan Catering), Nina Marasigan (Auffrance Catering), Robert Camba (Robert Camba Catering), Buddy Abesamis (VS&F Classic Food International), Brando Marasigan (Auffrance Catering); (seated, from left) Joel Pascual (Pepgi president), Boyet Versoza (Josiah's Catering) and Daniel Jacinto (Swan Catering and FCAP chair).

GARLIC costume

GARLIC as headdress

PHOTOS BY VIC SISON, FPPF

Garlic festival spices up fiesta season

BUNDLING up garlic

HOW many ways can garlic be worn? The townsfolk of Sinait, Ilocos Sur showed how when they displayed garlic adornments in multiple ways during the recent Sinait Garlic Festival.

Whether as headbands, anklets, earrings, pompoms or skirt decor, the Ilocanos tried on the sauté staple. Their aim: To merrily promote the garlic industry among spice and seasoning lovers.

Led by Ilocos Sur Gov. Deogracias Victor "DV" Savellano and Sinait Mayor Edgar Yabes, men, women, children and the youth of Sinait marched the streets and danced to a frenzied beat, clad in garlic-laced costumes.

Sinait, the entry to Ilocos Sur from the north, is the Garlic Center of the north. It has a land area of 7,800 hectares and a population of 24,070.

Focusing on garlic trade, production and promotion, the festival aims to attract tourists to the town and other points of interest in the province. Assisting in the festival organization and tour package development is the Department of Tourism, through Domestic Tourism Director Cynthia Lazo.

Aside from the parade, the Garlic Festival featured a garlic-bundling competition and garlic cooking demonstration.

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Venetian contemplations

From page E1

seem to have been possessed by an obsessive desire to shoot black gondolas in pitch blackness.

The rest of the time I simply strolled about, and this, more than any gondolier's rip-off tour, is the best way to experience Venice. I've never been one for history, architecture, paintings, cathedrals, and the like, so I ditched the tourist guide in favor of the gastronomic one. I dare say I learned more about Venice through its pasta than its plaster.

Venetian cuisine is unlike that of most of Italy, although they now follow the usual order of *antipasto* (etymologically, before the repast, and nothing to do with pasta), then pasta or risotto, a main dish, and then one of the typically uninspired Italian desserts that are either face cream or dog biscuits. From tradition, the cuisine is oriented toward the marine, but the lagoon is now so polluted that they have to source their fish and shellfish from elsewhere, which makes it somewhat expensive. But they do remember how to cook it, and like any civilization that has had an empire and a court, there is a sophistication to their cuisine that is very different from the rusticity of other Italian regions.

Light and noise

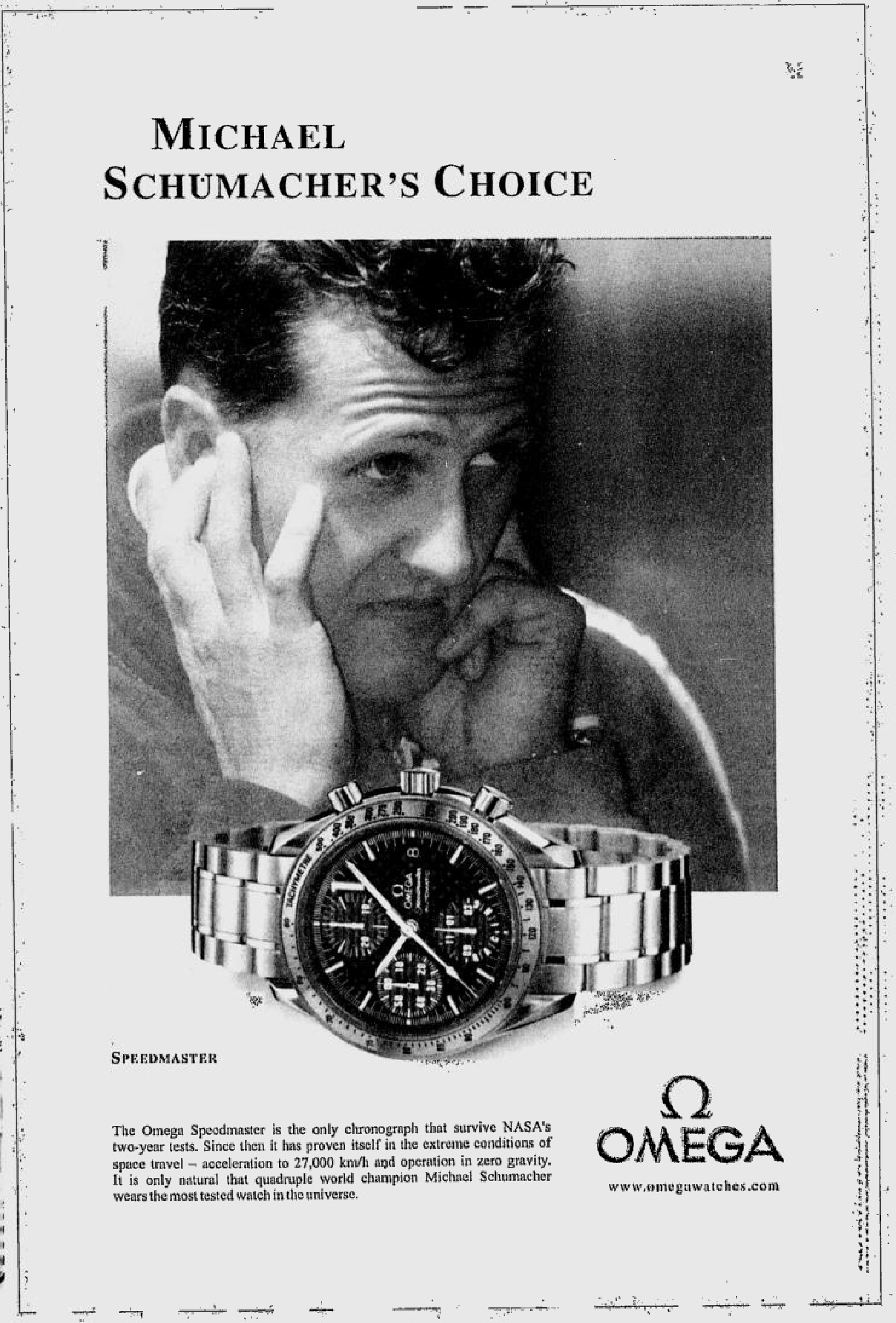
I used to have a girlfriend who spoke Italian, from whom I learned a great many Italian curses and exclamations of annoyance, mostly directed at me. The most useful phrase I learned was "Un bicchiere di vino rosso, per favore," which I ordered with every meal. Inebriated, I would wander around the tiny alleyways, crossing over bridges, trying to resist being drawn into the picturesque seductiveness of it all. It was a battle I lost, and the defeat was blissful and transcendent.

Narrow alleyways abruptly gave onto tiny corner taverns of light and noise and Italians in full spate (they have mastered the art of talking without drawing breath and gesticulating while holding a cigarette and a glass of wine). I ate pasta with anchovies, poached fish, plump mussels and fairly decent desserts. After a protracted hunt I also found a specialty wine of the region called fragola, which was cheap and delicious and did not cause any further damage to the interiors of the Hotel Gritti.

It was tempting to linger in Venice, if only because the overnight train to Paris was more like the Midnight Express than the Orient Express. I found ancient bookbinders and paper makers, artists' stores that still sold the old pigments for azure and vermillion, fabric shops like Fortuny and Gaggio with hand-painted velvet; I spent long afternoons at the outdoor tables of the Florian and the Quadro with a cigarette and espresso and all the time in the world. But if there is a lesson to be learned from a Venetian education, it's this: the city is sinking, figuratively, if not literally; the Hotel Gritti is very expensive, even if you don't break anything; gilded velour are beautiful in their setting but ridiculous in one's living room. In other words, there is a golden age, which can be revisited, and even briefly relived, but it comes to an end. As a diploma, I have a few pictures and a MasterCard bill worthy of framing.

E-mail the author at clinton@i-manila. com.ph

THE CANAL in Venice



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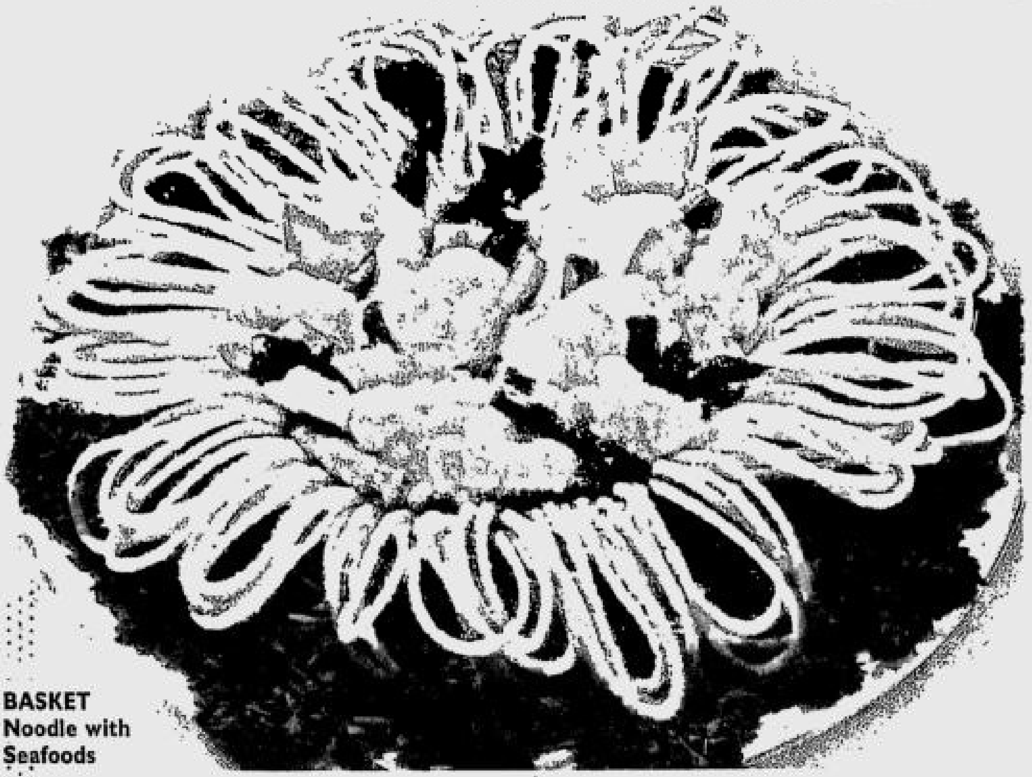

BASKET Noodle with Seafoods

MONGOLIAN dish

Big is the word

A BOUNTIFUL celebration ushered in the birth of the "biggest bowl" in contemporary Chinese dining scene. Big Bowl at 21 Greenbelt Mall, Legaspi St., Legaspi Village, Makati City, unleashed its dragon of a restaurant recently with a night of food, drinks, music and merrymaking in proportions only the Big Bowl knows best—bottomless.

In a lauriat buffet, Big Bowl served a sampling of its famed dishes, from its trademark fried rice to its long life noodle dishes and flavorful spring rolls. Lipton Iced Tea offered limitless refreshments that easily cooled the humid night. Ralph's added the kick to the celebration with their cocktail concoctions of flavored Stolichnaya Vodka. San Miguel Beer let its golden brew flow freely for the happening crowd. Alcoholic or otherwise, the guests partied on, under the influence of popular DJ Basti.

Sen. Loren Legarda and Fila president Butch Albert formally opened the doors to the new restaurant, after a Chinese traditional fan dance and a song number by Repertory's Ampee Sietereales. Little girls in cheongsams offered golden coins to guests, who were also showered with real coins to entice prosperity.

Spotted among the partying crowd were Stella Ruiz, Cutie del Mar, Studio 23 VJ JM Rodriguez, and the hottest main-men of the modeling world, Marc Nelson and Illac Diaz. Fila's Maricris Albert alongside her Fila *fashionistas* showcased their Fila gears at its hippest.

True to its name, the Big Bowl of China defies all proportions with its immense culinary offerings and affordable prices.

SENATOR Loren Legarda, Betchay Mendoza and Ambassador Uppal of India

WANDA Louwallien, Marieliese Evaristo, Toto Mapa and Pachot Mapa

CHINESE ceremonial dance

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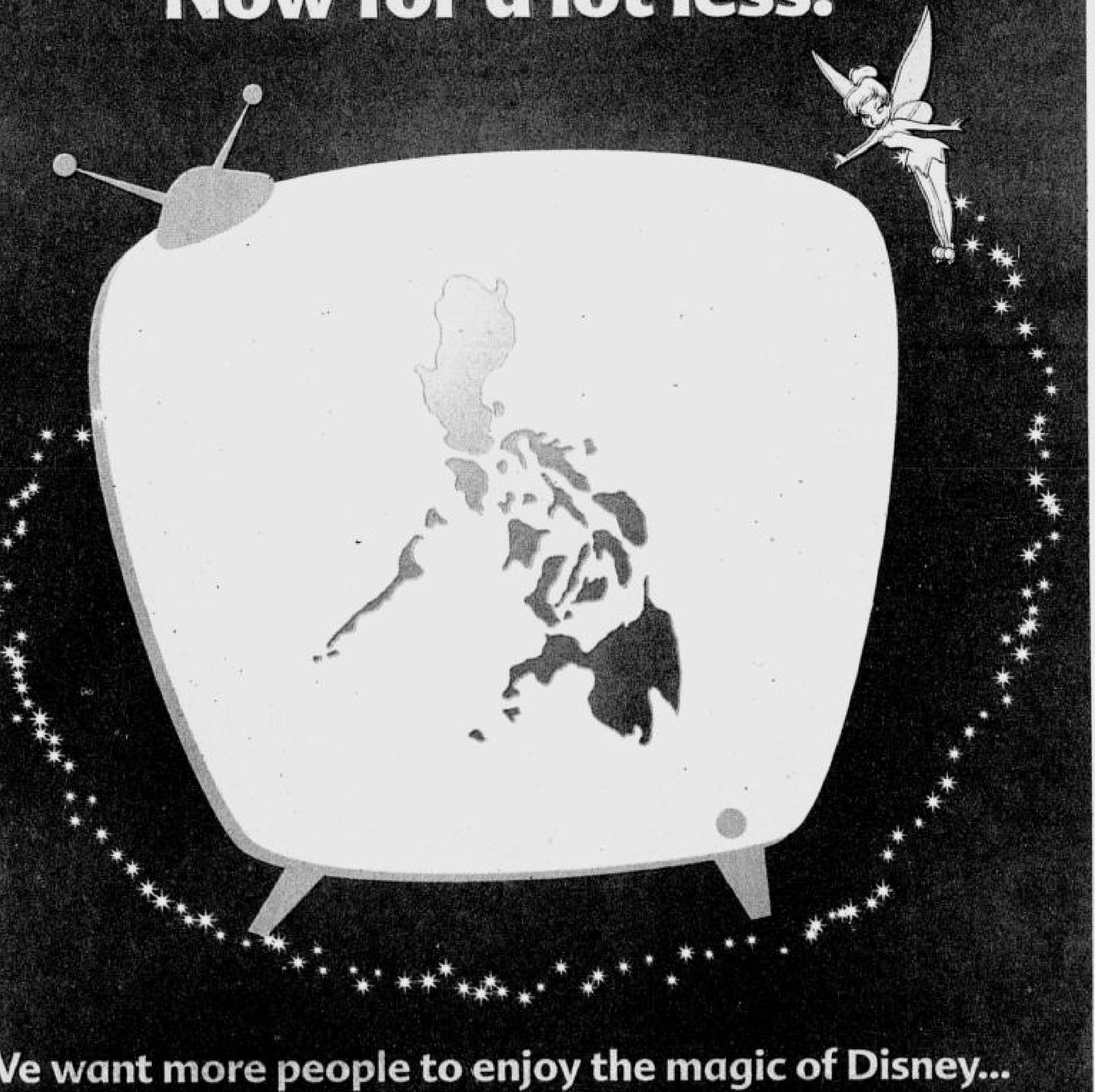

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MOTORING

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**

Motorbikes, cars top thieves' 'shopping' list

By Tessa R. Salazar

MOTORCYCLES and cars are still the objects of desire of vehicle thieves.

The latest statistics released by the Traffic Management Group points to this fact, as it indicated a 15.58-percent increase in stolen vehicles reported from January to May 2002 (1,120 units) as compared to the same period last year (969 units).

Most of the vehicles stolen were motorcycles, registering for 36.3 percent of the figure from January to May 2002. This also happened during the same period last year, with 36 percent of the figures accounted for by motorcycles.

Cars came second. About 23.9 percent of stolen vehicles reported were cars. From January to May 2001, 24.9 percent of lost vehicles were cars.

Most of the reported stolen vehicles in the country were taken while parked, said police authorities. Many vehicle owners in the Philippines, the authorities observe, do not have their own garages.

Cars also got stolen while its owners work in their offices, indicating that supposedly safe parking lots were not entirely theft-free. Motorists, who enter clubs and malls, were also car thieves' preferred targets. Other victims had left their vehicles parked overnight in isolated vacant lots.

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Traffic Management Group chief inspector Felixberto Castillo said that forcibly taken vehicles are not that frequent, and that these vehicles are more likely to be recovered. Forcibly taken vehicles are usually used for a certain criminal activity and would be abandoned after the crime.

Alarms could be a deterrent, but motorists are advised to use a steering and wheel lock, especially if the car would be unattended for hours.

Insurance—There are standard procedures for insurance claims.

Melchor Esguerra, manager of the Motor Car department of Equitable Insurance, explained that for a three-year-old car, the owner is asked to shoulder a participation fee of 0.5 percent of the car's market value as indicated in the policy. A stolen three-year-old commercial vehicle, meanwhile, would cost the owner one percent of the commercial vehicle's current market value. A motorcycle owner's participation fee is P500.

Depreciation shared—For vehicles more than three years old, the policy states varying percentages that the owner would shoulder.

Old vehicle claims—The fair market value of a vehicle is always based on the service bay (*casa*) assessment. For old vehicles, Esguerra said that estimates of prices could be based on the going rate in the Classified Ads' section of the newspapers' secondhand vehicles for sale. No one, however, can really ascertain the exact value of an old vehicle.

"The real fair market value is that when the vehicle is still inside the '*casa*.' Once it gets out, it automatically depreciates in value."

If the owner, however, adds expensive accessories, then that would be another story, added Esguerra.

There are two reasons settlements get delayed. One is caused by the delayed submission of the documents. The other is the recovery period of the vehicle, as insurance companies have to wait to have solid evidence for the claim. The anti-car theft unit of Camp Crame is tasked to recover stolen vehicles.

What to do if your car has been stolen

- REPORT the incident to the nearest police station.
- Ask for a certification of a blotter report about the incident.
- If you are the registered owner, bring the original copies of the official receipt (OR), certificate of registration (CR), police blotter report and the insurance policy (to find out if the vehicle is under comprehensive insurance or not) to the nearest Traffic Management Group unit. If you decide to go to Camp Crame, go right away to the Task Force Limbas (Special Operations Division). There are also provincial Traffic Management Offices. For easy processing, it's better to bring the requirements to the TMG Camp Crame in case you're in Metro Manila.
- If you are not the registered owner, bring the registered owner's authorization or a special power of attorney from the registered owner. Don't forget to bring the original copies of the official receipt, certificate of registration, police blotter report and the insurance policy.
- After the requirements have been completed, the TMG includes your vehicle on the general alarm list to alert police authorities in all regions. The TMG issues a nationwide alarm for the stolen vehicle.
- The alarm sheet and complaint sheet will be given to you by the TMG unit you filed your complaint with.
- The hotlines of Task Force Limbas are 724-8809 and 722-4068 and the Tactical Operation's Center 7253842, 7224094, 7261261, 7261263

Insurance requirements for stolen vehicles:

- OR and CR
- Driver's license
- Insurance policy
- OR of the policy
- Alarm sheet (coming from the TMG)
- Complaint sheet (coming from the police station where the owner filed the blotter)
- If the vehicle has not been recovered after 60 days, a certificate of nonrecovery should be asked from the TMG at Camp Crame so the settlement of payment would be processed. The basis of the claim would be the current market value of the stolen vehicle.

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When your car becomes thieves' object of desire

By Tessa R. Salazar

THE FOLLOWING scenarios are not products of a fertile imagination, but have actually happened to real motorists as verified by this writer.

These stories were circulated in e-mails recently.

At past midnight of May 21, Girlie (who requested her real name be withheld), an employee of a Makati City bank, was on her way home to Pasig after dropping off a friend at her house in Marikina City. She was not familiar with the place and eventually got lost in the side streets of Marikina.

At a gas station where Girlie had stopped to ask directions, she noticed a Chinese-looking man talking on his cell phone and looking at her car. She drove toward the Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall and Marcos Highway and noticed a white car tailing her closely. She slowed down to let the car pass, but it slowed down, too, and stayed behind her.

Suspicious-looking men

Then, without warning, the white car rear-ended her. Girlie stopped and got off the car to see the damage, and then saw three suspicious-looking men inside the white car, which also stopped. She ran back to her car, locked the doors and sped away. The white car gave chase and almost overtook her, its occupants threatening her to get out of her car.

At this time, Girlie recognized one of the men as the one she saw talking on the cell phone at the gasoline station.

Shaken but still composed, she prayed and kept focus. She drove as fast as she could. When she felt the men had given up the chase, she thought she heard stones thrown at her car.

Girlie finally arrived at the Sta. Lucia Mall and sped home. She told the INQUIRER that calling Hotline 117 was futile as she was kept on call waiting for an hour.

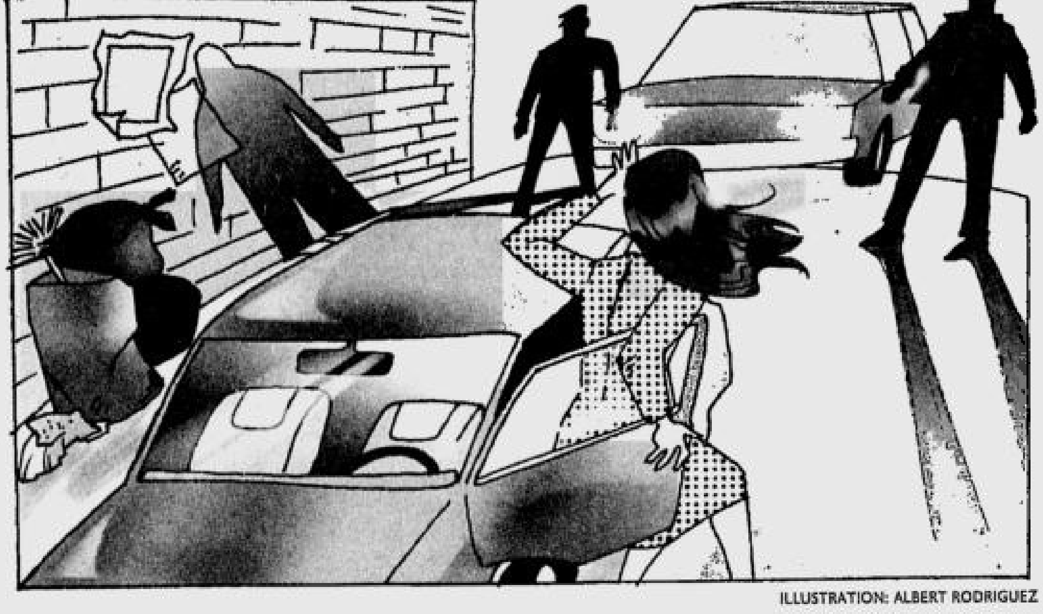

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Calling the police also proved useless as she was asked to go back to the scene where she had been chased.

The following day, as she inspected the damages to her car, she discovered that what hit her car were not stones but bullets. The men had shot her car three times. One bullet grazed her right rear door. Another dug a hole in the trunk, and the third penetrated the rear window and was embedded just below the headrest of her seat. That third bullet would have gone straight to her head were it not for the metal rim beside the rear window, which diverted the slug to the seat.

Another victim

Twain (not his real name) was driving home from work at around 2 a.m. He was also bumped from behind as he passed the corner of Gilmore and E. Rodriguez Avenue in New Manila. As Twain got out of his car, men from the other vehicle pounced on him and told him they wanted his car.

Twain struggled free and ran back to his car. Before he could speed away, two of them were able to get inside his car. The first one sat at the front passenger seat, and the other one at the back behind him. As he drove, the man in the back seat tried to choke and beat him, while the other in the passenger's seat tried to grab the steering wheel. After passing several blocks, Twain rammed his car into a tree. As Twain lay dazed from the impact, the men stole his watch and ran back to their own car, which had been following Twain's car.

Nearby guards saw the incident and rushed Twain to a hospital. He sustained injuries in the head, neck and face. He needed five stitches to close a wound on the head. Bullets from a .38 were found at the back seat.

Helpful hints

Here are some tips from the victims and their families:

- While it is instinctive to check damages immediately when a car bumps your vehicle, assess the situation first. If it is in a secluded area, just drive away. Insurance should cover whatever damages your car might have sustained.
- Keep your vehicle in tip-top shape, at all times.
- Carry a fully charged cell phone, always.
- Have somebody accompany you in unfamiliar places.
- Preprogram emergency numbers in your cell phone.
- Don't leave your vehicle when you feel you're in danger. Lock your doors at all times and keep the windows up.
- Don't be easily intimidated or provoked by either strong language or be baited by reassuring ones.
- Stay alert.
- Know where the nearest medical clinic or hospital is in case of injury or in health emergencies.

Crime shouldn't intimidate you from going out and enjoying your life. Just take extra precautions, and trust your instincts.

The Nissan Serena QR-V'S finesse

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

WITH SO many units of the Hyundai Starex, Toyota Hi-Ace, Kia Sedona, Kia Carnival, Chevrolet Venture, Dodge Caravan, Ford Econoline and Mitsubishi Space Gear on the road, you'd think that the minivan market is already overcrowded.

But obviously Nissan Motor Philippines Inc. doesn't think that way. For Nissan, the challenge is not just to compete in a certain segment of the car market, but to create its own niche in that segment. And so Nissan reentered the minivan market last April with the Serena Q-RV.

Some people think that Nissan fielded the Q-RV to replace the phased-out, unlamented Vanette. They're wrong, because a Vanette the Q-RV definitely is not. Comparing the Q-RV to the Vanette is like comparing a sleek gazelle to a pack rat.

First of all, the Q-RV exudes and possesses a finesse that the utilitarian Vanette never had. You feel this finesse immediately when you take the wheel of the QR-V and experience its superlative ride comfort. Equipped with a trailing arm with multi-link suspension and a stabilizer bar, the QR-V glides smoothly and quietly over ruts and potholes and tackles corners with a panache almost unbecoming of a 10-seat passenger van. Although the QR-V is taller (1,825 mm) than the Chevy Venture (1,729 mm), it goes through the bends with surprisingly minimal body roll, thanks to its stabilizer bar.

Performance is not expected to be a strong point in minivans, but in the Q-RV it is. The Q-RV's newly developed 2.0-liter 4-cylinder SR20 engine using Nissan's Sophisticated and Optimized Fuel Injection System (Sofis) is swift and responsive, delivering 145 ps/6,000 rpm (SAE) max output and 18.7 kg-m/4,800 rpm (SAE) max torque. Certainly not underpowered, the QR-V can spurt from zero to 100 km/h in a respectable (for a minivan) 15.0 seconds and has a top speed of 165 km/h. The Q-RVR Limited (automatic transmission) has a push button on the left side of the dashboard that allows the driver to switch to high-power driving.

The finesse in riding comfort and responsive performance are complemented by the QR-V's elegant interior appointments and conveniences. Nissan applied its winning formula for the Cefiro Brougham and Sentra Exalta Grandeur to the Serena Q-RVR Limited by loading it with luxe features such as a mobile VCD entertainment system with overhead flip-down screen, a six-disc audio video CD changer, dual fully automatic air-conditioning system for front and rear passengers, rear AC and audio video switch, captain's seat armrests for the driver and front passenger, leather steering wheel, map lamps up front, personal lamp for rear passengers; and conveniences such as twin sliding doors to facilitate access from either side, a walk-through space between the driver's and front seats that gives front passengers easy access to the rear cabin or vice-versa, power rear side windows that can be opened vertically, dark privacy glass for the rear and side windows and numerous cabin storage bins and cubbyholes. Power features, of course, are standard for steering, windows, door locks and side mirrors.

I particularly liked the flat walk-through space between the front seats since all sorts of things can be placed there, such as a briefcase or a handbag, a big camera, a small ice chest, etc. This walk-through space, which is also found in the first generation Honda CR-V, was made possible by the Q-RVR's column-mounted automatic gearshift.

The other thing I liked about the Q-RV that other minivans don't have is its rear back-up sensor. This is very helpful when reversing a big vehicle like a minivan into a tight or short parking slot.

Now comes the big question: Can the Serena Q-RV seat 10 passengers as Nissan claims? Well, yes, if two of the 10 are little terrors (brats) willing to sit on the folding side seats in the back. All the same, the moquette-upholstered seats are cushy and comfy, especially the captain seats with armchairs up front. The second and third row seats are of the bench type that can be flipped flat or stowed forward for extra cargo space and all have vertically adjustable headrests. A long slide railing plus the twin sliding rear doors make it easy to rearrange the rear seats to match a wide variety of uses and needs.

As for safety, the Q-RVR has driver-side airbag, anti-lock braking system (ABS), electronic brake force distribution (EBD). In the Q-RVU (manual transmission) as well as the Q-RVR AT, the rear back-up sensor, multi-reflector headlamps, high-mount stop lamp, side turn lamps and high-strength zone body are standard. The only safety equipment that the Q-RV lacks is a remote keyless entry and alarm system, but this can be easily installed as an after-market option.

Bottom line: At P1,160,000, the Nissan Serena Q-RVR AT is a competitively priced 4-cylinder 2.0-liter alternative to the V6 3.0-liter P1,150,000 Chevrolet Venture. Don't ask me to compare it to the other minivans because I haven't had the chance to test-drive them yet.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: You are not what you own.

* * *

E-mail comments to asevilla@inquirer.com.ph

Motorshow ushers in 13th season

By Jun Alano
Contributor

MOTORSHOW International (Philippines), the country's premiere auto and cycle exhibition, will hold its 13th season from Oct. 2 to 6 this year at the prestigious World Trade Center Metro Manila, with organizers expressing confidence that the show would help sustain the current upbeat mood in the automotive industry.

As the only automotive show in the Philippines with genuine international participation during the past several years, Motorshow International expects to attract anew the biggest names in the industry in the forthcoming edition, many of which have expressed interest to join this early.

Motorshow director general Marissa Nallana said that while they have retained the colorful and action-packed Motorshow special events for this year, she is also coming up with a big surprise that is guaranteed to make this year's exhibit very memorable to car buffs and industry players alike.

Apart from the regular car and motorcycle exhibits, Motorshow's corporate display will showcase the latest products and services in the auto and cycle industries. Auto accessories, parts and car care products will be on display as well, making Motorshow a one-stop shop for the motoring public.

The annual Motorshow Best in Show competitions will again definitely be a favorite come-on for the show, where contemporary cars, their modified versions and classic and vintage cars compete against the best there is, Nallana said.

While other motoring exhibits have mushroomed all over Metro Manila lately, Nallana said Motorshow is already a class by itself, having been around long enough to have established its reputation as **the** automotive exhibit everyone is waiting for.

During the past 12 Motorshow seasons, Nallana said their roster of participants would read like the who's who in the Philippine automotive industry. This includes Ford Motor Co., Universal Motors Corp. (Nissan), Jaguar Cars, Commercial Motors Corp. (Mercedes-Benz), Volvo, Volkswagen, Petron, Pilipinas Shell and Mobil Philippines.

Motorshow is organized by the Philippine Exhibits and Themeparks Corp.

Improved performance seen with Motolite EGX technology

ORIENTAL & Motolite Marketing Corp., the Philippines' leading automotive battery manufacturer, saw an opportunity to further innovate its leading battery brand, Motolite, to better serve the needs of vehicle owners with the introduction of its EGX technology.

EGX stands for "Expanded Grid" Technology, a set of new improvements, which is a product of the company's thorough product research and development to make its batteries perform well.

Strong research group

According to OMMC vice president for export and product development Ronaldo de Leon, the company has a strong research and development group that "constantly updates the latest developments in manufacturing processes." He also cited the company's product development team that collates feedback from both local and international markets on the performance of OMMC's line of batteries against its competitors. These inputs, De Leon said, "together with test results of our own batteries as well as those of competitors, give us clear directions on what actions to take to improve the quality of our products."

De Leon said the EGX technology has enabled the company to come out with the first true "maintenance-free" batteries in Asia.

Grid technology

The core innovation of EGX technology is the company's innovative manufacture of grid making or casting. De Leon explained that cast grids are susceptible to corrosion—the No. 1 enemy in a tropical environment.

"Our expanded grid technology uses wrought lead that can produce 'fine-grained' grids which are more resistant to grid corrosion compared to 'coarse-grained' cast grids," he said.

One other benefit of the EGX technology is that it helps in "tropicalizing" its batteries. This means that the batteries are adaptable to tropical climate, which is characterized by extreme heat and humidity.

The EGX technology, together with other specially designed innovations, helps prevent the detrimental effects of tropical conditions, one of which is high engine hood temperatures.

In tests made in Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) facilities, OMMC plant technicians have discovered that hood temperatures for cars operating in tropical climates are extremely high.

Secondly, compared to other Asian countries like Malaysia and Singapore, the Philippines and Indonesia rank among the worst in terms of traffic or road conditions. The constant wear and tear of bumpy roads significantly affects the performance of batteries.

De Leon stressed that the company's batteries are able to address these environmental issues, and still provide maximum performance compared to other batteries.

Greater performance with Nissan Cefiro VQ engine

THE ALL-NEW Nissan Cefiro, the flagship of Nissan Motor Philippines Inc., recently made its way to the local automotive industry as it was formally launched and took over the previous Cefiro that dominated the M class sedan market for almost six years.

The unveiling happened at the Grand Ballroom of Dusit Hotel Nikko in Makati with selected invitees from the media circle and NMPI dealers.

Nissan Cefiro's popularity dwells not only with its distinct look—similar to those of the European cars, but with its outstanding performance as well.

Multiawarded engine

Unlike any other car in the local automotive industry, only the all-new Cefiro has a multiawarded engine. Awarded eight consecutive times by the highly respected Ward's AutoWorld as one of 10 outstanding engines of the year among engine models sold in America.

The VQ20DE engine, the latest generation of powerplant design today powers the all-new Nissan Cefiro. Created through advance computer design, the engine produces V8-like response and performance—without the burden of V8-like weight or compromised fuel economy.

Modification

The VQ20DE engine was modified to further match the full model change of the all-new Nissan Cefiro. The engine maintained its ultra responsiveness and at the same time, its compactness and quietness. This rare combination of traits was achieved by simply maximizing engine weight and friction loss while maximizing efficiency.

It all starts with a compact aluminum engine block, Nissan engineers rethought every system and function. Friction was reduced throughout resulting in enhanced fuel economy, smoothness and responsiveness. This was achieved through the use of advance racing technologies such as micro finishing of the camshack and crankshaft, molybdenum coating of piston skirts, and use of smaller piston areas and thinner piston rings.

Torque improvement

Along with its modification comes the torque improvement. This was achieved by refining the camshaft tuning and increasing efficiency of the air intake system by adopting the nylon/glass-wool material for the intake collector. This also further improved the airflow and heat insulation properties. The new rotary valve-type variable intake system makes more torque available at low medium engine speed. The VQ20DE engine produces maximum power of 165 ps/6,400 rpm and 19.3 kgm/4,000 of torque while delivers excellent fuel economy.

THE AWARD-WINNING VQ20DE engine

The all-new Nissan Cefiro VQ20DE engine utilizes a two-stage cooling system design to help prevent engine knock, reduce emission and improve cold-start characteristics. Use of platinum spark plug, a chain camshaft drive (rather than belt) and a digital knock control system enhanced durability.

Power output

"One of the chief advantages of the Nissan Cefiro engine is its power output of 165 ps/6,400. It is definitely pleasurable to drive. The VQ20DE engine makes for a brisk, responsive engine, while maintaining a very quiet and refined quality to it. VQ in the VQ engine could also stand for 'Very Quiet,'"said Tonette Lee, product and marketing head at NMPI.

The all-new Nissan Cefiro is available as the Brougham VIP at P1,680,000 (with mobile AV entertainment system—LCD and 6-disc changer with VCD function) offered in raven black (two tone), and the Cefiro Elite at P1,360,000 (with 2-way power sunroof) with choices of five colors—raven black, polar white, sparkling silver, majestic gray and mica stone.

Searching for a better mode of transport

Text and photos
by Charles E. Buban

HAVE you ever thought of having to walk about half a kilometer just to reach the gate of your village? No easy feat, for sure. Yet, this was exactly what most residents of the United BF Homes Homeowners' Association Inc. had to do last April when the three transport groups operating inside the community declared a strike over some differences with the association's regulations.

It's definitely no joke if you happen to live right in the middle of BF Homes. Sitting on a 765-hectare property, United BF Homes is composed of several subdivisions and villages that extend from Parañaque City to the cities of Las Piñas and Muntinlupa. About 10,000 homeowners or some 60,000 households are residing in this community.

Since the road networks within BF Homes are private and exclusive to the community, only authorized association of tricycles and jeepneys are allowed to pass through BF Homes' several gates.

Reminisces Celso Reyes, UBFHAI president: "You could just imagine how many people were forced to walk from their home going to the main roads and vice-versa. Though the strike lasted for about a week, it crippled the community and in a way held us hostage to whatever demands the groups on strike asked from us."

Eye opener

The experience was an eye opener for UBFHAI. Realizing the community was at the mercy of the transport groups, the association decided to form an alternative transport service. "Even before the strike, we are already looking for a better village-wide transport system. The residents don't like more tricycles since they are annoyed by its noise and not comfortable to ride with. Same with the jeepneys because they belch smoke," says Reyes.

Since tricycles or jeepneys are out, the association looked for another option. The association was approached by one of the homeowners who happens to chair the Philippine Transport Watch, an advocacy group concerned with the welfare of the riding public. The group is actively supporting a Department of Transportation and Communication program to attract tricycle cooperatives and associations to upgrade their fleets to Multicabs.

Multicabs are a new class of vehicles invented in 1990 by Norkis Group of Companies. They're much smaller than jeepneys but run on a 550cc gasoline engine imported from Japan. They're widely used in the provinces, fast replacing jeepneys and tricycles because of their affordability, functionality and cost less on maintenance.

MSGR. Eduardo Joaquin, parish priest at the United BF Homes, officiates the blessing of the Multicabs while UBFHAI chair Celso Reyes, center, tosses the lucky coins.

UBF HOMEOWNERS' TRANSPORT COOP

THE FLEET of Multicabs the UBFHAI is operating will augment the transport requirements of the community.

TWENTY Multicabs are now plying the four routes inside BF Homes.

"The vehicles they were looking for fit the Multicabs' features—they run quietly, sit passengers more comfortably than tricycles, emit less smoke and don't crowd the streets," describes PTW chair Tony Medina who was a former vice governor of Masbate.

Initial run

Last June 10, a pilot operation for the Multicabs started in time for the school opening. Twenty Multicab units were initially fielded to service the four routes inside BF Homes. The UBFHAI is planning to buy 30 more of this 11-seater vehicle.

"The association bought these units not to replace the tricycles and jeepneys here but to augment the transport requirement of BF Homes. At the same time they give us a sense of security that what transpired early this year wouldn't happen again," says Reyes.

The Multicab fleet is managed and operated by the association to serve its members and their households including their guests. They will operate between 5:30 a.m. and 8:30 p.m.

UBFHAI legal counsel Veny Cruz added that to address the costs of operation and maintenance, the association would require each passenger to pay a minimum fee of P5 as a contribution.

Says Medina: "I believe the Multicabs fit our community's transport needs. It's a good investment for tricycle operators if they plan on replacing or upgrading their aging fleet. An average tricycle may cost around P85,000 while a Multicab is priced around P130,000 and they get more with the latter."

The DOTC recently teamed up with the Department of Interior and Local Government in launching a program called "Koop Paradahan, Pook Sakayan." The program aims to empower tricycle drivers and operators by forming cooperatives. Through the Office of Transport Cooperative, the DOTC will provide loans totaling P50 million to qualified tricycle cooperatives and accredited associations nationwide if they upgrade their existing fleet into Multicabs.

The Philippine Postal Bank Corp., which signed a memorandum of agreement with the OTC, will facilitate the loan.

Now making a splash on American roads.

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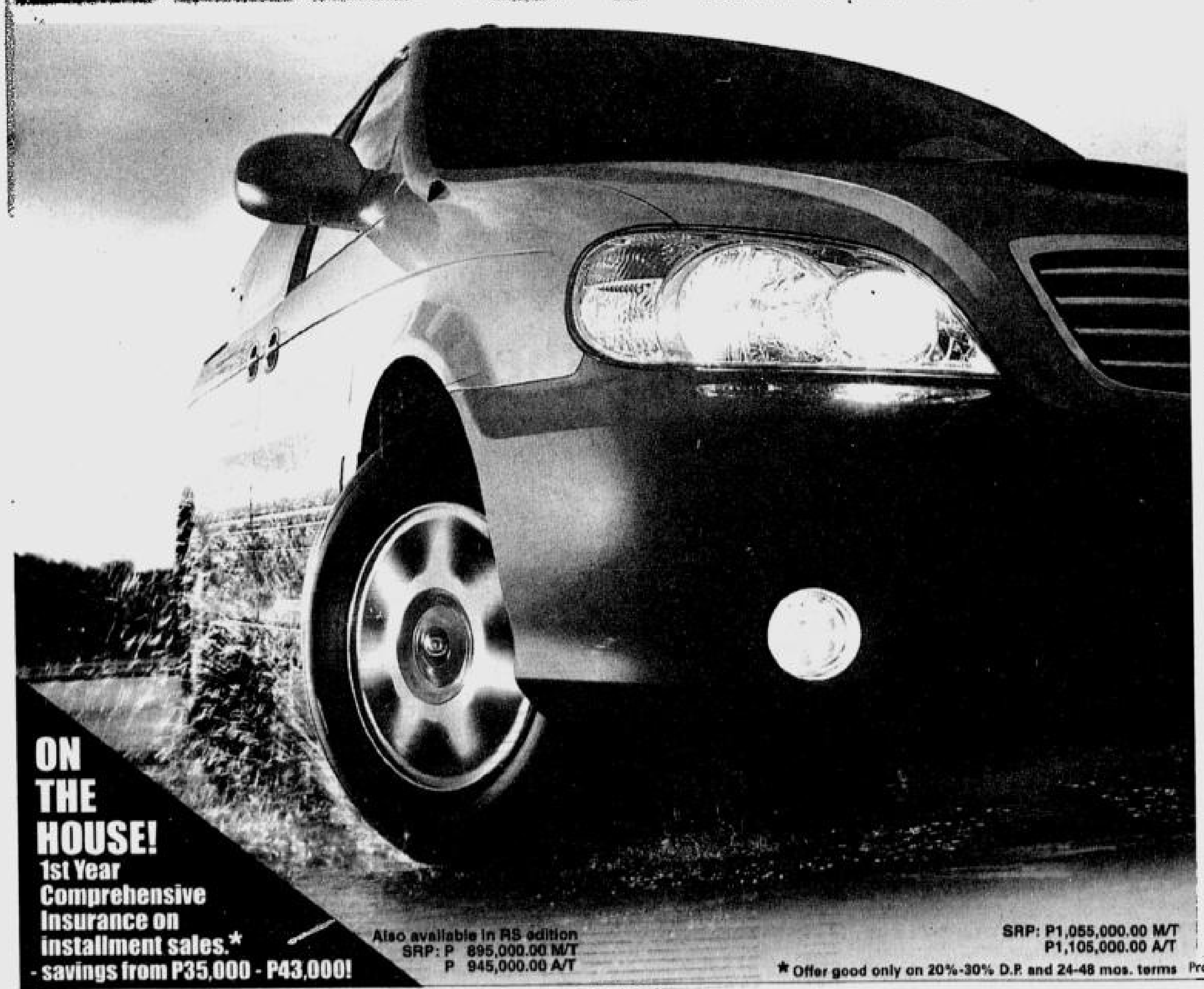
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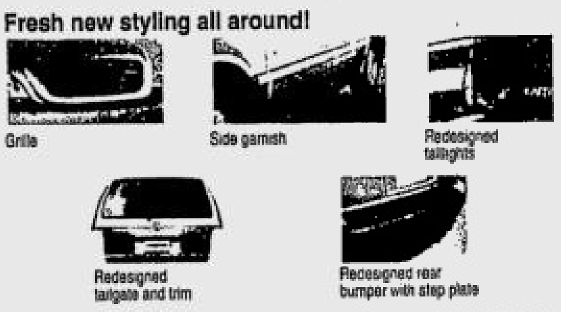
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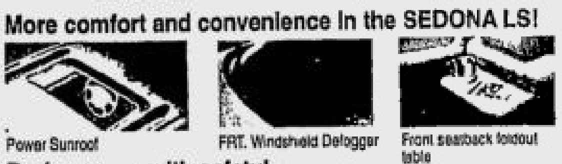
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Group recommends LPG as alternative auto fuel

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

ON ANY working day, go up a high enough building and you will not fail to notice the heavy smog that envelopes Metro Manila—the product of too many cars and public transport vehicles spewing black smoke into the atmosphere.

The smog not only results in increased cases of respiratory diseases among Metro Manila residents but also contributes to global warming, or rising global temperatures.

LPG as auto fuel

One alternative proposed by the Philippine Liquefied Petroleum Gas Association Inc., an umbrella organization composed of the players in the LPG industry, was the use of LPG as an alternative automotive fuel.

"The PLPGA strongly recommends that auto LPG be developed as an alternative automotive fuel given its clear environmental benefits, proven and safe technology, existing and more than adequate supply infrastructure coupled with the existing fuel station network in the country," the association stated in a position paper.

The paper cited that LPG has lesser greenhouse gas emissions such as carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxide that contribute to global warming compared to gasoline and diesel.

And since LPG readily dissipates in air, it does not adversely affect soil and water in case of leakage unlike gasoline and alternative fuels such as ethanol or methanol, which is not soluble in water.

Used in 40 countries

The PLPGA also said that unlike other alternative fuels, LPG is already widely used as an alternative automotive fuel.

There are currently more than four million vehicles in over 40 countries that are running on auto LPG, consuming 10 million tons a year. The Netherlands and Italy, for instance, have been using LPG for over 40 years.

In some Asian cities, governments have directed the use of auto LPG because of the high level of air pollution.

Auto LPG fuels more than 20,000 taxis in Tokyo while Hong Kong passed legislation in 2000 to convert all taxis to use auto LPG by 2006. In Australia, there are more than 900,000 vehicles using the fuel.

"Given the extensive experience with auto LPG globally, the PLPGA strongly endorses its development as an alternative automotive fuel to reverse the worsening environmental problems caused by conventional fuels," the paper said.

The PLPGA also stressed that vehicles running on LPG would perform the same as gasoline or diesel-fed cars.

Safety standards

It, however, said that the government must step in to convince motorists to convert to LPG, particularly in enforcing safety standards, setting the policy conversion and ensuring the cost effectiveness of auto LPG.

"To prevent accidents related to auto LPG, safety standards on refilling stations and vehicle conversions must be enforced," the PLPGA said.

The paper added that the price difference between gasoline, diesel and LPG should be increased from the current 30 to 35 percent to at least 50 percent to make it attractive for car owners to convert their engines to accept LPG.

FUEGO

Isuzu still No. 1 in truck sales

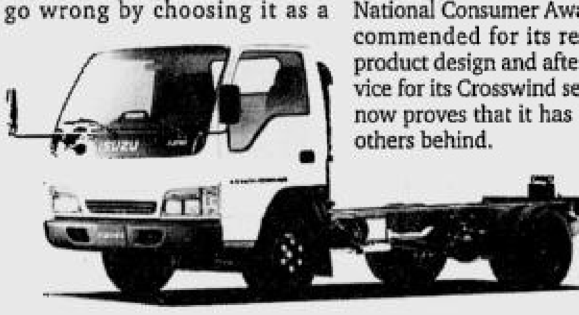
LATEST report from the Truck Manufacturer's Association showed that Isuzu remained No. 1 in truck sales.

For five consecutive months, Isuzu's N-Series trucks proved to be a tough contender to beat in the truck category. It topped the charts with a year-to-date record of 286 units against the total industry truck sales of 505. This evidently ate up 56.6 percent of the total truck sales.

The Isuzu N-Series trucks are known as a tough, reliable and versatile logistics partner—a must for every start-up or expanding business. And because it is powered by Isuzu's legendary diesel engine, no businessman can ever go wrong by choosing it as a long-term business partner.

And now, Isuzu Philippines Corp. also boasts of the Fuego's market sales and on-road performance. Posting the highest sales in pickup category twice this year—first in February with 24 percent share and second in May with 30 percent—the Fuego is placed in a fighting stance against competitors. In addition, Isuzu topped the diesel category of commercial vehicles for the months of March and April, selling a total of 985 and 964 units, respectively.

Recently, Isuzu Philippines was awarded as the "Best AUV Manufacturer" by the Consumer's Union of the Philippines during its annual National Consumer Award. It was commended for its remarkable product design and after sales service for its Crosswind series. Isuzu now proves that it has left all the others behind.


ISUZU N-Series

Toyota retains market leadership

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

IT'S back to school for our kids. And, of course, it's also back to our chore of scouting for the right school bus. And what is the right school bus for the future shapers of this country?

To me, the owner of the school bus is the No. 1 consideration. If he/she passes the test, your worries—at least half of them—are solved.

I mean, the owner must be reputable, a respected member of the community. If he/she has those traits, you can bet his/her man for the vehicle possesses good moral character. Always, the safety of the kid starts with the owner of the school bus.

But then, the driver must also pass rigid screening. Ensure that he's not into drugs, never been a drug user.

Next would be the school bus. Is it in tip-top shape? You may have a driver with the best skills in the world but if the unit he is going to drive isn't in top shape, goodbye.

* * *

If we still have doubters around, think again. We are Toyota country.

In the latest sales report, Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. (TMPC) came out the winner again as, for the fifth straight month, it emerged the top car manufacturer. Likewise, it topped all segments for three months in a row.

Figures released by the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. (Campi), showed that Toyota's sales grew by 51 percent, with 2,131 units sold last May. Toyota cornered almost 29 percent of the total vehicles sold for the month.

Toyota's year-to-date figures likewise showed its continued dominance by selling a total of 9,578 units from January to May. Its market share rose to an incredible 30 percent, registering a 35 percent increase in its sales compared to the same period a year ago.

But Mitsubishi Motors Philippines (MMP) somewhat managed to stay close, recording the second highest output for the month with sales of 1,526 units. But it still trailed Toyota with its sales total of 6,626 units for the first five months of the year. Mitsubishi captured 21 percent of vehicles sold for the year and posted gains of 3 percent compared to year-ago levels.

Honda Cars Philippines Inc. (HCPI) rallied by dislodging Isuzu Philippines Corp. (IPC) at third, registering sales of 1,163 units in May. However, it is a close battle for third in the year-to-date sales between the two, with Honda slightly edging Isuzu with sales of 4,265 and 4,210 units, respectively.

* * *

In the passenger car segment, Toyota's dominance was amply reflected with 631 units sold in May—an increase of a whopping 128 percent compared to last year's figures.

Toyota also scored well in the total passenger cars sold in May, grabbing the biggest market share with 38 percent.

It likewise owns the biggest market share with a 38 percent share of the total passenger cars sold last month.

Honda was second anew, selling 450 units. Mitsubishi climbed to third with sales of 160 units.

Toyota maintained its leadership in the total passenger car sales with 6,269 units sales for the first five months of the year. Its sales grew by 114 percent compared to year-ago levels resulting in 37 percent of the total passenger car market. Honda was second again with 2,814 units sold and Mitsubishi, third with 694.

* * *

The Altis, that Brad Pitt wonder, sustained its handsome standing in the market, retaining its No. 1 ranking in the passenger car category. It has been topnotcher in its class since its introduction. Shifts in market preference to commercial vehicles hardly caused a dent on its performance.

For the month of May, the Altis registered sales of 605 units with a 36 percent share of the total passenger cars sold. Its sales figure last month was a leap of 185 percent compared to sales last year.

Again, the Honda City showed strong showing, emerging as the second best selling passenger car last month. The city sold 240 units, shoving aside the one-time best-seller Civic.

The Altis also grabbed the top spot in the year-to-date passenger car sales with sales of 3,203 units. Its sales grew by 152 percent to capture 36 percent of the total passenger cars sold from January to May. The Civic was second with year to date sales of 1,617 units. The City was third with 1,102 units sold.

* * *

The Revo topped the total commercial vehicles sold for the year with 4,792 units—a growth of 22 percent to take 38 percent of the total AUV market.

Mitsubishi's Adventure, with 3,081 units sold, came in second for a market share of 25 percent. The Isuzu Crosswind was third with 2,725 units sold for the first five months of the year, good for 22 percent of the total AUV sales.

In the exciting AUV segment, the reconstituted Honda CR-V has been registering amazing figures in sales during the last few weeks. Some friends of mine are in queue to buy one. Waiting time is six weeks! Wow!

* * *

Congratulations to the new officers of the Philippine Automotive Association (PAA) who were elected recently at the Manila Golf & Country Club. They are George F. Blaylock of Diamond Motor Corp. (president), Leo J. Ferreira of Toyota Cubao/Manila Bay (vice president), Michael N. Cheng of Ford Balintawak (secretary), Amando San Juan of Nissan Commonwealth (treasurer), Paul N. Ching of Citimotors (president, ex-officio), Kurt S. Bachman Jr. of Mantrade and Ramon T. Goh of Wheels (directors).

Autonomy wins 'Engine of the Year' award

STRUTTGART, Germany—AUTOnomy, the fuel cell concept car developed by General Motors' Global Alternative Propulsion Center (GAPC), recently received high praise.

An international jury of 41 motor journalists from around the world distinguished this car with the "Engine of the Year" award in its "Best Concept" category. This title awarded yearly by the renowned English publication "Engine Technology International," is perceived as the "Oscar" for propulsion technology.

Graham Johnson, jury president and editor of the publication, said at the prize-giving ceremony at the exhibition "Engine Expo 2002" in Stuttgart (Germany): "At last a purpose-design fuel cell car. AUTOnomy shows that the space age propulsion system can be attractive." This was the second time in a row a future concept of General Motors was recognized by the jury, as the award was given last year to the SVC engine with variable compression developed by Sweden's Saab.

CITY MEDIA CHALLENGE ROUND 2

Deakin awarded best time of day

JUNE 15 was a hot, hot day for the participants of Round 2 of the City Media Challenge held at the CCP Complex in Manila.

Apart from the humidity, competition was stiff and the best times of the day kept getting better. The well-deserved best-time-of-the-day award was eventually given to James Deakin (Team Clover Green representing C! Magazine) for clocking 1:03.42 in his second heat.

Second and third best times were Emil Tiangco's (Team Supersonic Blue—representing ABS-CBN) 1:03.62 and Dodgie Aguila's (Team Passion Orange—representing Today) 1:03.83, respectively.

Team Clover Green's time of 3:16.78 earned them 30 championship points, bringing their total to 48 points and putting them in third place in the overall team standings. The team is composed of Brent Co (Autoindustriya.com), Bernard de Lara (Tempo), James Deakin and Miriam Quiambao (Extra! Extra!).

In second place, with a team time of 3:27.76, was Team Passion Orange, composed of Dodgie Aguila, Angelo Almonte (dzMM), Charo Logarta (ABS-CBN News) and Benj Ngo (Autoindustriya.com). Their win puts them in sixth place in the championship series.

Placing third and earning 24 points is Team Satin Silver's 3:20.69. The team is composed of Kap Aguila (Philippine Star), Ferdie Baja (dzEC), Lester Dizon (Gadgets Magazine) and Jay Taruc (I-Witness). Team Satin Silver is currently tied in first place with Team Formula Red (Jons Crisostomo—Dragracingpinoy.com, Iris Cruz—GMA 7 News, Lito German—Manila Standard and Raul Virtudazo—dzBB) with a total of 51 championship points.

The City Media Challenge is presented by Honda Cars Philippines Inc. The official fuel is Caltex Vortex, and the official engine oil is Caltex Havoline. Other sponsors are Michelin for the official tires, through its distributor, Tiara Commercial and Industrial Corp.; Aitech for the stickers; and Nodalo's Trading for the car modifications. The event is organized by ADBM Resources in partnership with Activity Asia Association and Roadwise Motoring School.

BMW adds 2 long wheelbase models

FOLLOWING the launch of the new 735i and 745i in January this year, BMW will add two long wheelbase models to the range, the 735Li and 745Li. Both models will arrive in the Philippines next month and will be priced at P9 million for the 735Li and P10.86 million for the 745Li.

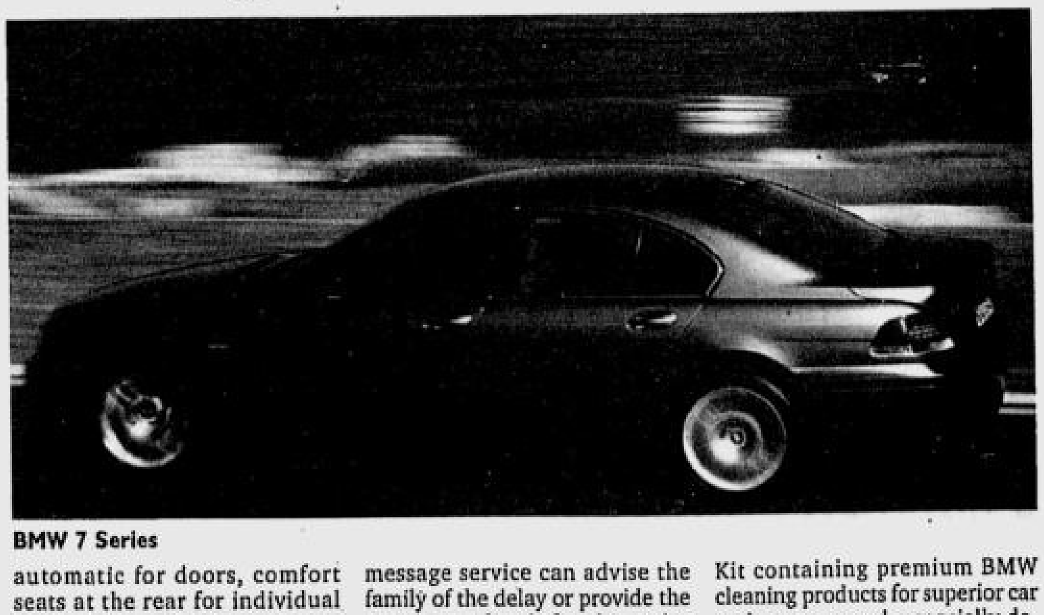
Measuring 5169 mm in length, both the 735Li and 745Li are 140 mm longer than the standard 7 Series models, giving the rear passengers an extra 89 mm of legroom. This is 34 mm more legroom than the previous generation long wheelbase 7 Series models. And, the luggage compartment offers ample space for up to four golf bags or a complete set of Samsonite cases.

Impressive acceleration

Both the long wheelbase models still achieve the same impressive acceleration figures as their shorter companions.

In 7.5 seconds, 0-100 kph is reached for the 735i and 735Li. The 745i and 745Li take just 6.3 seconds.

In addition to the 7 Series' lengthy list of standard specifications, the 735Li and 745Li variants feature self-leveling suspension, electric blinds for the rear side window and rear windshield. The 745Li is fitted with additional enhancements such as soft close automatic for doors, comfort seats at the rear for individual seat settings, and TV function.


BMW 7 Series

Customer service

A new level of customer service, never before seen in the Philippines, compliments these new models. Exclusively offered to 7-series owners, BMW is introducing the BMW Club 7 Privileges Package. This service initially includes:

- **BMW Roadside Assistance** is for towing/recovery service in the event of a breakdown and qualified technicians are on-call to conduct immediate minor repairs. And if necessary, a message service can advise the family of the delay or provide the customer referrals for alternative transport or hotel accommodation.
- **BMW Emergency Medical Assistance** is inclusive of ambulance costs and a contribution to costs associated with medical expenses as a result of an accident.
- **BMW Concierge Services** include hotel referrals and reservation, flowers and gift delivery and golf course referral.

Furthermore, all 7 Series customers receive a BMW Car Care Kit containing premium BMW cleaning products for superior car maintenance and a specially designed BMW Club 7 chauffeur's uniform.

The 7 Series is the most exclusive model range of the BMW brand with its trend-setting design and advanced technological features. It is the BMW interpretation of luxury and innovation in the premium performance segment and underscores what the BMW brand stands for: supreme engineering, innovative power and sheer driving pleasure at its very best.

Toyota continues to lead 2002 vehicle sales

TOYOTA Motor Philippines Corp. emerged as the top car manufacturer for the fifth straight month and topped all segments for three months in a row.

Based on the figures released by the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. (Campi), Toyota's sales grew by 51 percent to come up with 2,131 units sold for the month of May. It was able to corner almost 29 percent of the total vehicles sold for the month.

Toyota's year-to-date figures also show its continued dominance by selling a total of 9,578 units from January to May. Its market share rose to 30 percent buoyed by a 35 percent increase in its sales compared to the same period a year ago.

Mitsubishi Motors Philippines was able to record the second highest output for the month with sales of 1,526 units, however it still trails Toyota with its sales total of 6,626 units for the first five months of the year. Mitsubishi was also able to capture 21 percent of vehicles sold for the year and posted gains of 3 percent compared to year-ago levels.

Honda Cars Philippines Inc., on the other hand, was able to wrest the third spot from Isuzu Philippines Corp. by registering sales of 1,163 units for May. However it is a close battle for the third place in the year-to-date sales with Honda slightly edging Isuzu with sales of 4,265 and 4,210 units respectively.

Passenger car segment

A close look at the passenger car segment reveals Toyota's supremacy in this segment with 631 units sold in May which reflects an increase of 128 percent compared to last year. It also has the biggest market share with a 38 percent share of the total passenger cars sold last month. Honda settled for second place by selling 450 units, which is 48 percent lower, compared to its sales last year. Mitsubishi climbed to third place with a sales output of 160 units.

Toyota was able to maintain its leadership in the total passenger car sales with 6,269 units sales for the first five months of the year. Its sales grew by 114 percent compared to year-ago levels resulting in 37 percent of the total passenger car market.

Despite the 15 percent drop in its sales, Honda was able to hold on to the second position with 2,814 units sold. Mitsubishi was able to squeeze into third place with 694 passenger car units sold for the year.

Consistent topnotcher

The consistent strong showing of the Altis continues to push Toyota to the top of the passenger car category. The Altis has been the consistent topnotcher in its class ever since its introduction and has virtually kept the passenger car segment afloat amid the shift of market preference to commercial vehicles.

Last month alone, the Altis registered sales of 605 units with a 36 percent share of the total passenger cars sold. Its sales figure last month represents a leap of 185 percent compared to sales last year. Surprisingly, the second best selling passenger car last month was the Honda City which posted sales of 240 units, outselling the Civic which experienced a 66 percent decline in sales to settle for third place with 195 units sold.

The Altis also grabbed the top spot in the year-to-date passenger car sales with its sales output of 3,203 units. Its sales grew by 152 percent to capture 36 percent of the total passenger cars sold from January to May. The Civic was able to maintain its foothold on second place with year to date sales of 1,617 units. In third place is the City, which sold a total of 1,102 units.

Source of excitement

The commercial vehicle (CV) segment continues to be the source of excitement for the auto industry as it continues to lead the industry on its way to recovery. The anticipation over this segment is not without basis as the aggregate CV sales for the month registered growth of 45 percent while the total CV sales for the year grew by 15 percent.

Leading the way in the CV segment is Toyota with its sales output of 1,500 units, to capture 26.4 percent of the total CVs sold for the month of May. Mitsubishi is the

TOYOTA/ p.F6

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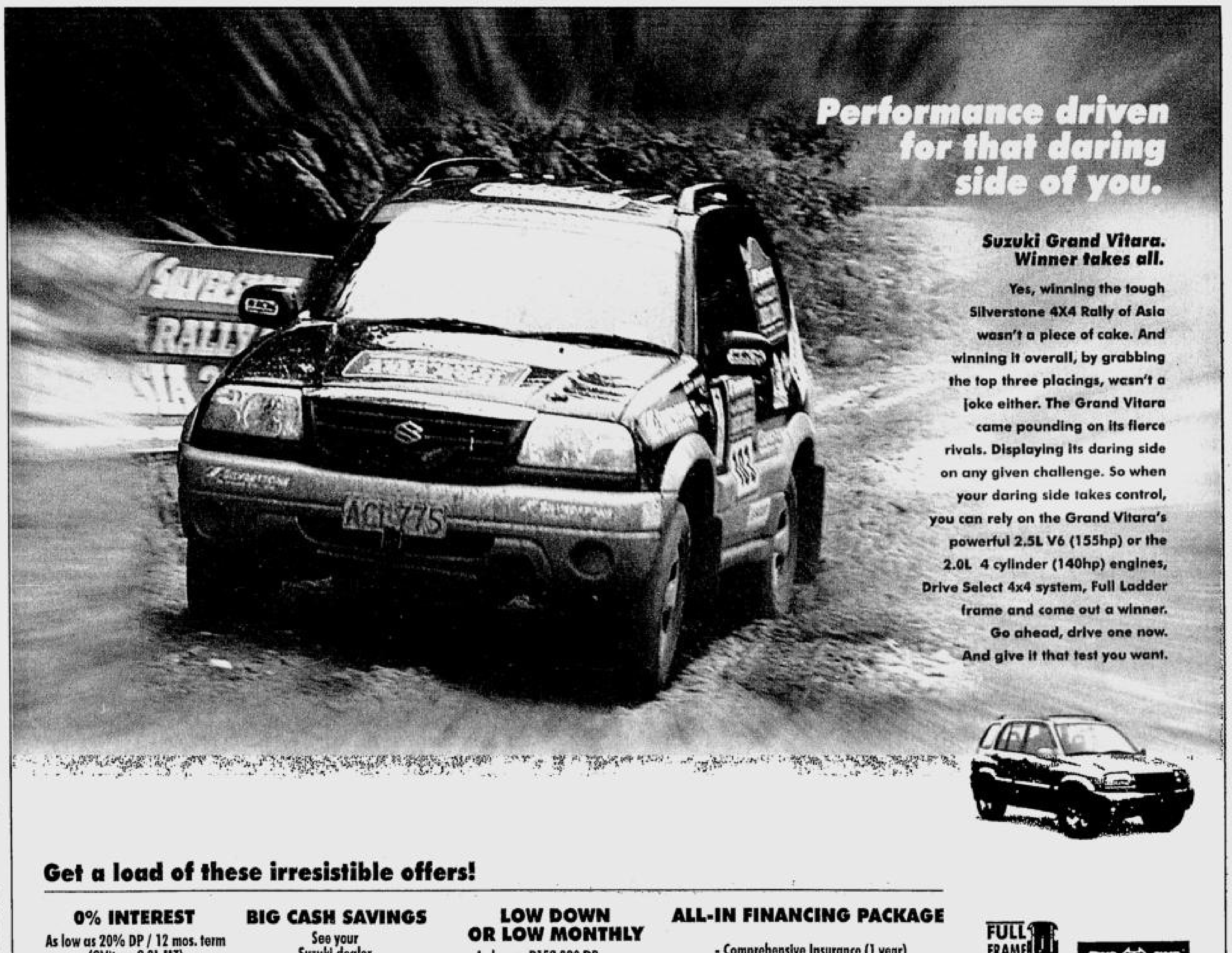

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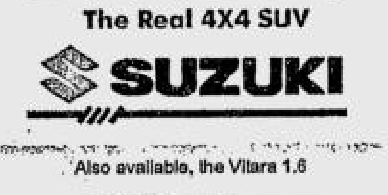

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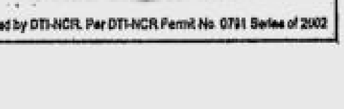

**Approved by DTI-NCR. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0791 Series of 2002

Honda wins several categories in Int'l Engine of the Year Awards

HONDA has proved that it makes some of the world's finest engines by winning anew multiple categories in this year's International Engine of the Year Awards.

For the third consecutive year, the 2.0-liter Honda S2000 and 1.0-liter Insight IMA hybrid engines won their respective size categories, the latter also winning "Best Fuel Economy" Award.

A further accolade for Honda's hybrid technology comes with the new Civic Hybrid winning the 1.0- to 1.4-liter category—as well as being nominated runner-up to the Insight in the Best Fuel Economy class.

As significant as the number of wins were the winning margins. The Honda S2000 engine received nearly 30 percent more votes than the runner-up (the BMW 2-liter Valvetronic), while the Insight's 1.0 liter IMA was awarded almost twice the number of votes as the next best (the 1.0-liter Toyota Yaris unit). And the Civic Hybrid not only fended off five competing diesel units, but gained more than 40 percent more votes than the runner-up PSA/Ford 1.4-liter diesel.

Toyota...

From page F5

runner-up with its 1,366 units sold while Isuzu holds third place with its reported sales of 912 units.

Total commercial vehicle sales for the year also show Toyota in the lead with 6,269 units sold. Toyota was able to corner 27.3 percent of the Total CV market and also posted a 13 percent growth compared to the same period a year ago.

Mitsubishi meanwhile is behind Toyota with its sales output of 5,932 units. Isuzu completes the top three by recording sales of 4,210 units for the year.

Competitive segment

For several years, the Asian utility vehicle (AUV) category has been the most active and competitive segment with various industry players trying to outdo each other to gain the top spot.

Despite the stiff competition in this segment, the Revo still reigns supreme. For May alone, it sold a total of 1,138 units and captured 34 percent of the AUV market. Its sales figure for the month reflects a growth of 43 percent compared to the same period last year.

On the other hand, the new Honda CRV, now classified as an AUV, stole the thunder from the Mitsubishi Adventure and Isuzu Crosswind by posting sales of 707 units to emerge in second place. The Adventure managed to sell 676 units while the Crosswind reported sales of 553 units for the month of May.

The Revo also holds the distinction of topping the total commercial vehicle sales for the year with 4,792 units sold. It recorded a 22 percent increase, taking 38 percent of the total AUV market.

Mitsubishi's Adventure, which sold 3,081 units, came in second with a market share of 25 percent. The Isuzu Crosswind ended up in third place by selling 2,725 units for the first five months of the year, good for 23 percent of the total AUV sales.

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GLS A/T	710,000	100,000	28,362	20,189
MX	790,000	118,000	31,558	22,464

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50% D/P	12 mos.	18 mos.	36 mos.	60 mos.
310,000	*25,833	17,894	10,164	7,157
340,000	*28,333	19,467	11,060	7,787
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